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Bush, Rumsfeld agree: 'Timing right for new leadership at Pentagon'

COURTESY OF AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Calling Donald H. Rumsfeld "a superb leader during a time of change," President Bush announced at a White House news conference today that he and Secretary Rumsfeld have agreed the time has come for a change in leadership at the Pentagon.

President Bush said he will nominate Bob Gates, former director of central intelligence and current president of Texas A&M University, to succeed Mr. Rumsfeld as secretary of defense.

"Our military has experienced an enormous amount of change and reform during the last five years while fighting the war on terror, one of the most consequential wars in our nation's history," the president said. "Don Rumsfeld has been a superb leader during a time of change, yet he also appreciates the value of bringing in a fresh perspective during this time of war."

"Don Rumsfeld is a patriot and has served our country with honor and distinction," President Bush continued. "He is a trusted advisor and a friend, and I'm deeply grateful for his service to our country."

Mr. Rumsfeld became the youngest person to hold the top Pentagon post under President Gerald R. Ford in 1975. He has served in the post under President Bush since the current administration took office in January 2001.



Donald H. Rumsfeld, greeting Airmen at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., has stepped down as secretary of defense. Mr. Rumsfeld and President George Bush issued a statement Nov. 8 that they agreed the time had come for a change in leadership in the Pentagon. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. James M. Bowman)

Saddam Hussein guilty, faces death sentence

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

An Iraqi court sentenced Saddam Hussein to death Nov. 5 for ordering the

execution of 148 men in Dujail, Iraq, in 1982.

Thousands of people in Baghdad took to the streets to celebrate the verdict. The Iraqi High Tribunal sentenced two other defendants to death and four to prison and acquitted one.

"The Saddam Hussein era is in the past now, as was the era of Hitler and Mussolini," al-Maliki said following the verdict. "We want an Iraq where all Iraqis are equal before the law. The policy of discrimination and persecution is over," he said.

U.S. forces captured Saddam hiding in a

hole in the ground in December 2003. In a written statement, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad called the verdict "an important milestone for Iraq as the country takes another major step forward in the building of a free society based on the rule of law."

Khalilzad said the verdicts demonstrate the commitment of the Iraqi people to hold the members of the former regime accountable for their actions.

All involved in the case showed courage in proceeding with it, the ambassador said.

Baathist "dead-enders" tried to intimidate members of the court, and insurgents killed three defense lawyers in the course of the trial, he noted.

"Their determination to pursue justice is a signal that the rule of law will prevail in Iraq despite the difficult situation that the country now faces," Khalilzad said.

Saddam's case will be appealed automatically to the Appellate Chamber of the Iraqi High Tribunal. The defense has 30 days to file any motions.

Commander's Corner

Dole: Even heroes sometimes need a helping hand

BOB DOLE, SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR
AS APPEARED ONLINE AT
WWW.STATESMAN.COM ON SEPT. 28

I was asked recently to write the forward to the book "Courage After Fire." Reading the self-help guide for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, and for their families, prompted me to write this editorial encouraging our brave service men and women who are having readjustment problems to get help immediately.

My own experience as a World War II veteran and involvement with other veterans over the years have made it crystal clear that returning stateside is not the end of the mission. A sizable percentage of the 1.2 million men and women who have rotated through Iraq and Afghanistan will experience significant readjustment challenges as they integrate back into their hometowns.

A recent study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that 20 percent of Iraq veterans will suffer some mental health problem upon return. These can include relationship and work difficulties, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, substance abuse or depression. Many will show no visible scars of war. And many who need help will not seek it primarily because of their military training and mindset. The authors of this study found that about 50 percent of Iraq veterans given

a mental health referral based on a questionnaire completed upon return did not seek help in the following year.

This pattern is not new. For generations, service men and women have come home to face depression, awkward relationships and a disconnection with day-to-day life, and have suffered alone and in silence. The prospect of appearing weak by seeking professional help was embarrassing and dispiriting.

Those of us who have served know the military mindset can get in the way of asking for help. It's all about serving the group first, and serving yourself later (if ever). During wartime, toughing it out through injuries, loneliness, grief, fear and stress becomes second nature, and much depends on the ability to put personal issues aside for the benefit of the greater good — the success of a mission and well-being of fellow soldiers. This mindset of self-sacrifice is hard to abandon when you get home.

Our military service men and women also don't want to burden their loved ones with their problems; however, not talking about their experiences can make problems worse.

Fortunately, today there is increased understanding of these issues and assistance to ease the transition home. We know the sooner veterans address their readjustment problems, the better the prognosis. When I came home, there were

no Web sites, no medical articles, few educational materials and no books that I can recall for veterans who suffered from war-related problems, including what was then called "battle fatigue" and is now precisely defined as post-traumatic stress disorder. But our current generation of veterans can take advantage of the hard-fought progress made by Vietnam veterans and members of the medical community that eventually led to the designation of PTSD as a recognized mental disorder in 1980.

The Department of Defense is making more assistance available to service men and women during deployment. The Department of Veterans Affairs is doing more to help our newest veterans and their families after deployment. Research and resources abound to help our troops see that readjustment problems are common and can improve through family and professional support.

For returning veterans, it takes guts to face problems and get help. I encourage you to make use of the many valuable services and resources available.

You and your loved ones deserve it. God Bless America.

(Dole, a former senator, was the Republican presidential nominee in 1996. He also served in the U.S. Army during World War II.)

Lt. Ross Bales and the Potato Peeler Kids

A GUEST OPINION FOR VETERANS DAY
U.S. SEN. LARRY CRAIG (R-IDAHO)
CHAIRMAN, U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Veterans Day has always been an important day for me, because it provides an opportunity to thank veterans, and remind others to do so as well, for their service and sacrifice to our great nation. The last few years though, Veterans Day has taken on an even greater significance now that I am the chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

I have always had a tremendous faith in the spirit of our nation and our people. Since becoming chairman, however, I've heard new stories almost constantly that only reinforce and build on that faith. The caliber of our men and women in uniform never ceases to amaze me and remind me how blessed we are to live in the greatest nation on Earth.

One such story will always stick out in my mind. It is the story of 1st Lieutenant Ross C. Bales, a sharp young B-17 pilot from Caldwell, Idaho. I learned about him when I traveled to a number of U.S. cemeteries in Europe and North Africa earlier this year for the Memorial Day holiday. No one could tell me for sure when, or if, Members of Congress ever had gone to see whether the graves of our brave soldiers and marines who died over there were being cared for properly. The delegation I led was very pleased to see they were.

Lieutenant Bales' name was engraved on a wall in a cemetery in the Netherlands that paid tribute to Americans who died in World War II, but whose remains were never recovered. Bales flew a total of 35 missions over Europe, an extraordinary feat, considering the high mortality rate of B-17 pilots during the war.

Bales named his first plane the "Idaho Potato Peeler," in honor of

our state's most famous commodity. It flew well, but after a particularly tough mission, Bales was forced to make a wheels-up belly landing at Chipping Warden, England, in January, 1943. Bales and his crew survived with no injuries.

Undaunted, and with a new plane dubbed "Potato Peeler Kids," Bales and his crew soon returned to the skies. But on May 14, 1943, on a mission to Kiel, Germany, Bales and his crew were shot down, last seen going down in a spin and crashing into the North Sea. There were no survivors.

What drives a person like Bales to join the military, to lay his or her life down for the benefit of those of us who live on? They are driven by the same qualities that live in our troops serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, and all over the world today: patriotism, selflessness and a sense of duty to protect our ideals and our people.

I've met with many of them on the ground, in both Afghanistan and Iraq. While in Iraq last year with Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson, we met with members of Idaho's 116th Cavalry Brigade. I was taken aback by the emotional response of soldiers. One even said, with tears in his eyes, "I didn't think you'd come." You see, I'd made a promise to visit Idaho's troops when I had met with them before they left. That heartfelt thanks told me something — our heroes want to know that we appreciate them. I certainly do. I think every American does.

Having spoken with many veterans, I know they don't view themselves as heroes. If you served in the U.S. armed forces, whether in a time of peace or a time of war, I respectfully disagree; you are a hero. By your service, you helped keep America safe, secure and strong. I thank you for securing the gift of liberty for all of us.

This Veterans Day, I encourage you to thank a veteran for serving our country. Please don't assume they have been thanked before. If they have, one more "thanks" never hurts a hero.

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First Company Governors Horse Guard

Second Company Governors Horse Guard

First Company Governors Foot Guard

Second Company Governors Foot Guard

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President signs 2007 Defense Authorization Act

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

The fiscal 2007 National Defense Authorization Act provides more than \$530 billion to maintain the military in the shape it must be to win the war on terrorism.

President Bush signed the bill, officially called the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, during a small ceremony in the Oval Office Oct. 17.

Senator Warner is Virginia's senior senator and the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The act provides \$462.8 billion in budget authority for the Defense Department. Senate and House conferees added the \$70 billion defense supplemental budget request to the act, so overall, the act authorizes \$532.8 billion for fiscal 2007.

The act sets aside \$4.4 billion for 22 C-17 Globemaster III airlifters, \$1.4 billion for procurement of 14 Marine V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft and \$1.5 billion for 43 MH-60R/S helicopters.

The act authorizes \$841 million for 122 Stryker combat vehicles, including \$41.5 million to replace combat losses. The act also provides \$1.4 billion for 20 F-22 Raptor fighters and reduced funding for the F-35



President George W. Bush signs into law H.R. 5122, the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2006, in the Oval Office. Joining him are from left: Vice President Dick Cheney, Rep. Duncan Hunter of California, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Sen. John Warner of Virginia, and General Peter Pace, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. (White House photo by Eric Draper)

Lightning II fighter due to schedule delays.

The \$70 billion supplemental provision covers the cost of ongoing operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa, as well as other expenses affiliated with the war on terrorism. The supplemental funding also

provides \$23.8 billion to help "reset" Army and Marine Corps equipment, which is wearing out faster than originally planned because of the war.

The supplemental measure further provides \$2.1 billion for the Joint

Improvised Explosive Device Task Force, \$1.7 billion to train and equip Iraqi security forces and \$1.5 billion to help train and equip Afghan security forces.

The authorization act provides a 2.2 percent pay raise for American servicemembers, effective Jan. 1. It continues the Army at its end-strength of 512,400 and raises the Marine Corps end-strength to 180,000. The Army National Guard end strength is set at 350,000.

The act authorizes the expansion of eligibility for the Tricare health care program to all members of the Selected Reserve while in a non-active-duty status and their families. Payment is set at 28 percent of the premium amount established by DOD. The act also prohibits any increase in Tricare Prime and Tricare Select Reserve in fiscal 2007.

The act authorizes \$36.6 billion for operations and maintenance costs, including \$700 million for body armor and \$149.5 million for ammunition.

The act authorizes construction of seven warships, including the next-generation destroyer and the amphibious assault replacement ship.

The act also provides \$794 million in advance procurement authority for the next generation aircraft carrier, the CVN-21.

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For Immediate Release



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News Release

SOCIAL SECURITY

Public Warned about E-mail Scam

Jo Anne Barnhart, Commissioner of Social Security, and Patrick O'Carroll, Jr., Inspector General of Social Security, issued a warning today about a new email scam that has surfaced recently.

The Agency has received several reports of an email message being circulated with the subject "Cost-of-Living for 2007 update" and purporting to be from the Social Security Administration. The message provides information about the 3.3 percent benefit increase for 2007 and contains the following "NOTE: We now need you to update your personal information. If this is not completed by November 11, 2006, we will be forced to suspend your account indefinitely." The reader is then directed to a website designed to look like Social Security's Internet website.

"I am outraged that someone would target an unsuspecting public in this manner," said Commissioner Barnhart. "I have asked the Inspector General to use all the resources at his command to find and prosecute whoever is perpetrating this fraud."

Once directed to the phony website, the individual is asked to register for a password and to confirm their identity by providing personal information such as the individual's Social Security number, bank account information and credit card information.

Inspector General O'Carroll recommends people always take precautions when giving out personal information. "You should never provide your Social Security number or other personal information over the Internet or by telephone unless you are extremely confident of the source to whom you are providing the information," O'Carroll said.

To report receipt of this email message or other suspicious activity to Social Security's Office of Inspector General, please call the OIG Hotline at 1-800-269-0271. (If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call the OIG TTY number at 1-866-501-2101). A Public Fraud Reporting form is also available online at OIG's website www.socialsecurity.gov/oig.

Connecticut's first in-state schooled warrant officer candidates graduate



In front row: WO1 Lori Michaud, CW2 Mathew Cheatham, WO1 Frank Voity and WO1 Jason Cyr. Back Row: Lt.Col. Spyros Spanos, Col. Marek Russo and CW5 Mark Marini. Michaud, Voity and Cyr had just received their commissions as warrant officers.

Former fighter wing commander's final flight

1ST LT. JEFFERSON S. HEILAND
DEPUTY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, 103RD FW

BRADLEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, East Granby – The former commander of the 103rd Fighter Wing touched down here for the last time in an A-10 aircraft July 8, 2006.

Col. Daniel L. Peabody, assistant adjutant general for air, Connecticut National Guard Headquarters, flew A-10 aircraft #78-646 just 2.2 hours on Sunday, July 8, but that number adds to a career of A-10 flying hours totaling more than 4,200.

A customary reception and celebration of Peabody's "Fini Flight" occurred on the flight-line immediately after the aircraft was parked.

Peabody performed his final A-10 sortie with fellow pilots: Col. John P. Swift, III,

commander, 103rd Fighter Wing, Col. Brian P. Barnes, commander, 103rd Operations Group, and Lt. Col. Peter J. Depatie, commander, 118th Fighter Squadron.

All told, this group of flyers represented more than 12,000 hours of A-10 flight time and more than 7,600 sorties.

Peabody credited the people with

whom he has worked as the source for his

"I think of my greatest memories in terms of all the great guys I got to fly with, both guard and active duty, and the whole A-10 community. They are just a great bunch of people and professionals."

Col. Daniel Peabody

fondest career memories.

"I think of my greatest memories in terms of all the great guys I got to fly with, both guard and active duty, and the whole A - 1 0 community. They are just a great bunch of people and professionals," Peabody said.

envisioned himself as a pilot.

"When I enlisted (in 1976), I clearly had the goal of being a pilot. Not only that, but a fighter pilot," he said.

Later, in pilot training, Peabody remembered being asked where he saw himself down the road in his military career.

"My answer was as squadron commander of a fighter squadron, because, to me, that would be the best job in the world," Peabody said.

Peabody's mother, Mary A. Peabody, knew that he had wanted to fly since he was 3.

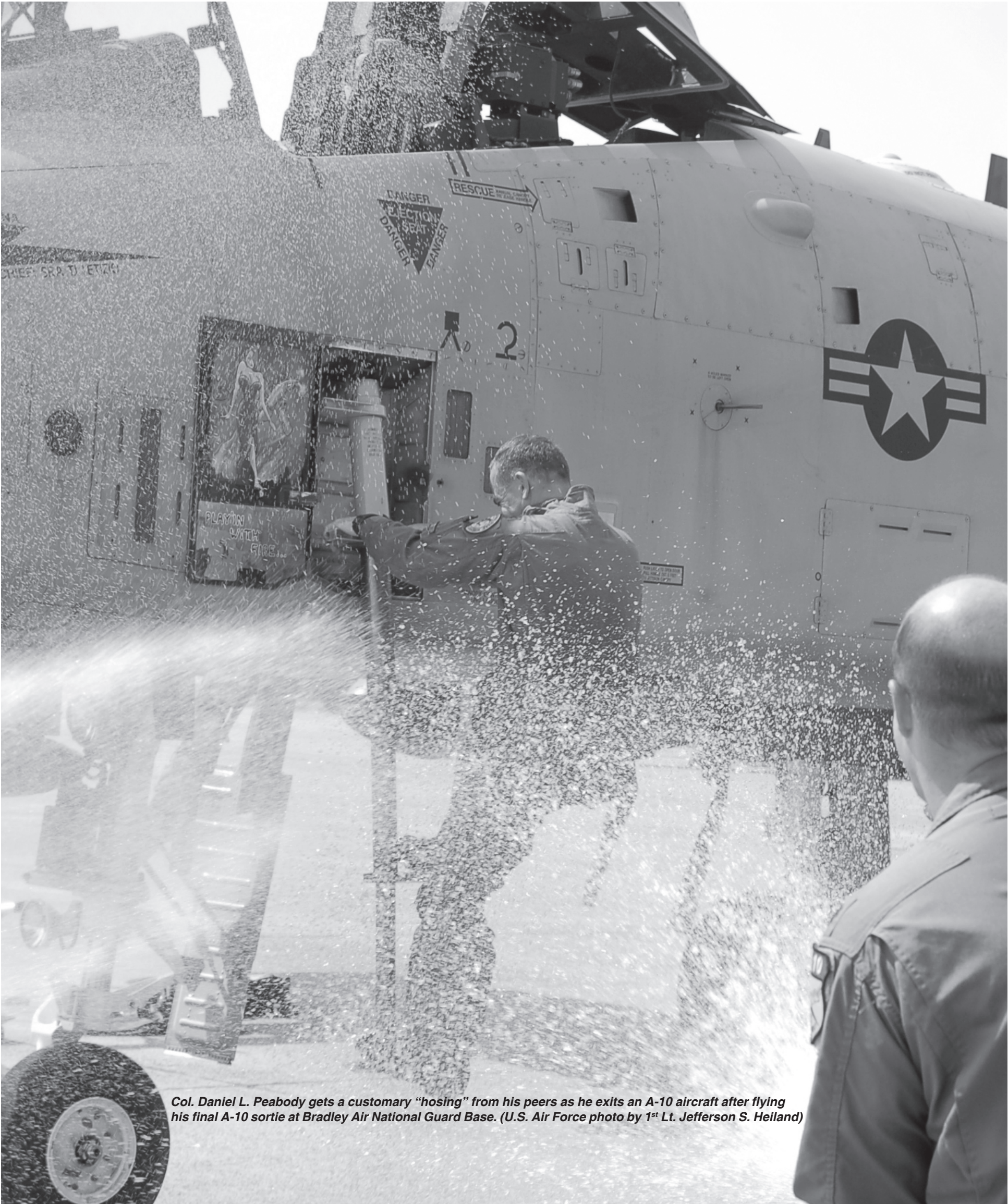
"I could have told you fifty years ago that this day would be here," she said.

Peabody will be transporting executives and professionals in chartered jets in his new civilian position with TAG Corporation.

As an enlisted airman, Peabody



Col. John P. Swift, III, Col. Daniel L. Peabody, Col. Brian P. Barnes, and Lt. Col. Peter J. Depatie pose in front of the A-10 that Peabody piloted for his "Fini Flight" at Bradley Air National Guard Base July 8. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Jefferson S. Heiland)



Col. Daniel L. Peabody gets a customary “hosing” from his peers as he exits an A-10 aircraft after flying his final A-10 sortie at Bradley Air National Guard Base. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Jefferson S. Heiland)

President, military leaders dedicate Air Force Memorial

STAFF SGT. JULIE WECKERLEIN
AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

10/14/2006 - WASHINGTON — On behalf of a grateful nation, the President of the United States accepted the Air Force Memorial in a dedication ceremony here attended by military leaders of the past and present, political and business representatives and thousands of ordinary citizens and Airmen alike.

“A Soldier can walk the battlefields where he once fought,” said President George W. Bush. “A Marine can walk the beaches he once stormed, but an Airman can never visit the patch of sky he raced across to defend freedom. And so it is fitting that from this day forward, the men and women of the Air Force will have this memorial.”

The ceremony was the highlight of a daylong open house event that attracted thousands of people from around the country to the south parking lot of the

Pentagon. Huge screens were put up which allowed the visitors in the parking lot to view the dedication ceremony, which took place at the base of the memorial.

That crowd included H. Ross Perot and his son, H. Ross Perot Jr., who is chairman of the Air Force Memorial foundation, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Also in attendance were former chiefs of staff of the Air Force, secretaries of the Air Force, chief master sergeants of the Air Force, Air Force Medal of Honor recipients and their families.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney McKinley spoke at the event, saying he was deeply honored to be a part of it. He reflected on the Airmen who serve today, and their connection to the dedicated Airmen who served in the past.

“We have the most powerful air, space and cyberspace force in the world,” he said. “This is a long over-due tribute to all those who

are a part of this ongoing cycle of dedicated and talented Americans who service in the Air Force.”

The Air Force Band performed several pieces while a video was shown with clips from pilots climbing into World War II bombers to modern-day Airmen working in the sands of Iraq.

Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. T. Michael Moseley spoke of several Airmen who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom. He read an excerpt from a letter sent by Senior Airman Jason Cunningham, an Air Force para-jumper with the Special Forces to his wife, Theresa, before he was killed in combat in Afghanistan in 2002.

“As if aware of his impending death, he wrote, ‘I’ll die a happy man doing the job I love’,” read General Moseley. “Those are the words of a true PJ, and it speaks volumes of his commitment and dedication. We honor him with this memorial, as well as the

countless others who are like him.”

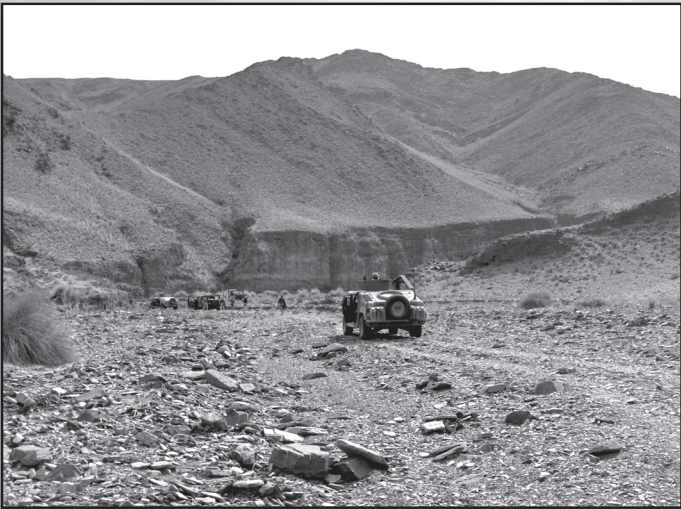
Several aircraft, ranging from World War One bi-planes to today’s stealth bombers and fighters, flew over the crowd and memorial in chronological order, providing visual evidence of the evolution of military flight.

The ceremony ended with a demonstration from the Thunderbirds, who buzzed the crowd before doing the bomb-burst formation, which inspired the design of the three-spires of the memorial.

“We commemorate today the courage of the men and women who were the Air Force blue,” said President Bush. “We remember those who gave their lives for their fellow Americans. We mourn their loss, we pray for their families and we consecrate their legacy here today.”



On behalf of all American citizens President George W. Bush accepts the Air Force Memorial from Air Force Memorial Foundation Chairman Ross Perot Jr. during a dedication ceremony at its Arlington, Va. location overlooking the Pentagon on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2006. Looking on are, from left: Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley. Designed by the late James Ingo Freed the memorial with its three soaring spires inspired by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds bomb burst maneuver, pays tribute to and honors the patriotic men and women of the U.S. Air Force and its predecessor organizations. An open house will run near the Pentagon in conjunction with the dedication ceremony which will feature performances by the U.S. Air Force Band, the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard drill team, and will culminate with a concert featuring country music performer LeeAnn Womack. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Cohen Young)



Update from Jalalabad, Afghanistan

STAFF SGT. PABLO RAVIZZOLI
R&R FORCE
PHOTOS COURTESY OF SPC. ZACHARY GLENNEY
CO.B, 1/102ND INF

While on leave, Spc. Zachary Glenney from Company B, 1st Battalion, 102 Infantry (Light) spent a few minutes recounting his experiences in Afghanistan.

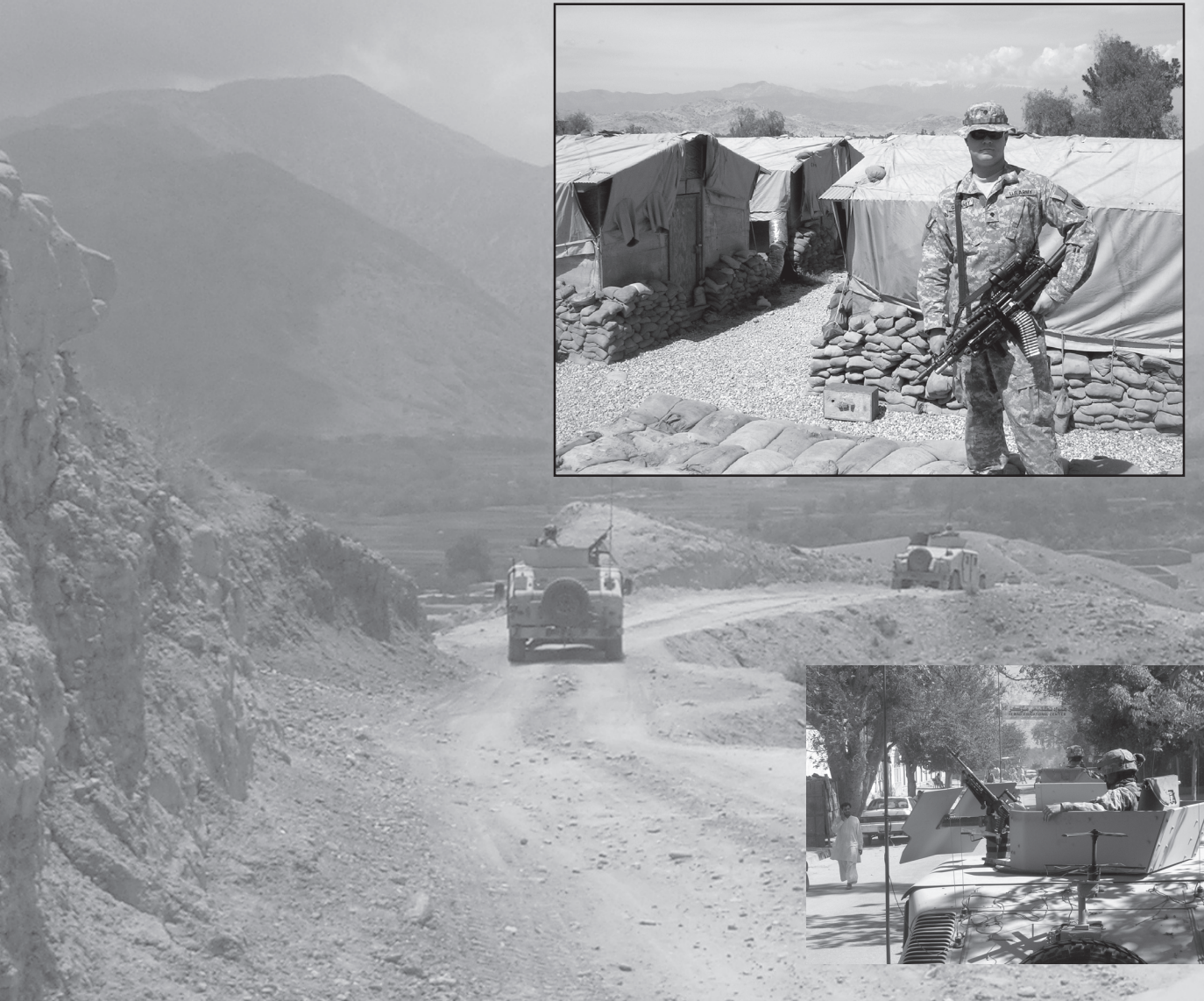
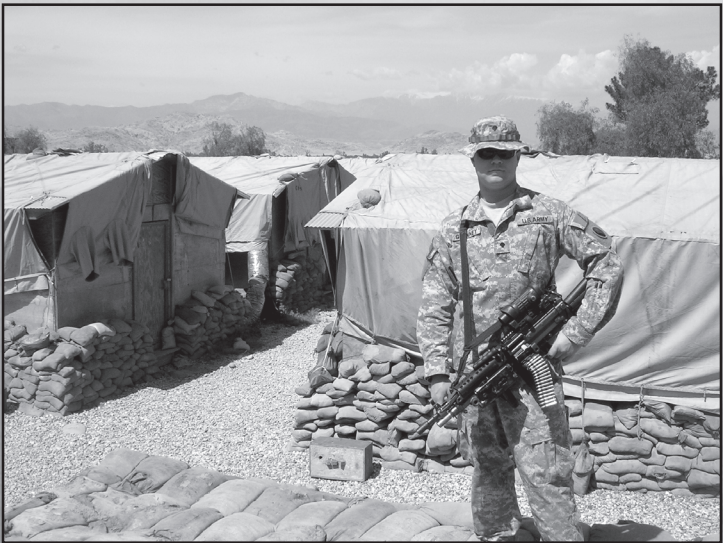
His platoon is part of Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) 4, Jalalabad, affectionately known as “J-bad”. Here is the abbreviated review of his six months on this deployment.

Positives: “People appreciate and respond well to us. I’ve gotten to do a lot of patrolling and also some dismounted Infantry [operations].” Glenney is glad that he and his PRT are “helping the poor that have been ruled by tyrants.”

Challenges: He recounts the difficult terrain for both walking and driving. He also admits that there’s definitely a learning period working with people from different units and services. He also talks about the hot weather and all the equipment there is to carry. In his example, as an M-249 gunner, it can be a heavy load. He is quick to point out that during enemy contact, having a superb weapon and the proper equipment makes all the difference. Glenney sums it up very well... “[carrying all that gear] sucks ‘til you pull the trigger.”

Overall Experience: He’s had the opportunity to build a relationship with some of the locals and as a whole says “we’re there to establish a working government.” According to Glenney, “It’s a good mission.”

Glenney has volunteered to be extended beyond his deployment in Afghanistan. Getting the opportunity to deploy and perform his duties as an Infantryman, Glenney and other Connecticut Guardsmen like him are writing one of the most important chapters of their lives. When asked what he would tell a young Soldier about deploying he says, very simply, “Train hard and be ready.”



'Godfather' of Connecticut Guard reflects on 25 years of Dining In

STAFF SGT. STEVE MARKOWSKI
130TH PAD

From the moment he walked in to the Aqua Turf banquet facility in Plantsville, it was his night, and his event.

And that was appropriate, considering that this seems as if it has always been his event – since he started it 25 years ago.

The now-retired senior noncommissioned officer who started the annual "Connecticut Senior NCO Dining-In" in 1982, was back as the keynote speaker at its "silver anniversary."

Former State Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Savino (Ret.) served as keynote speaker for the 2006 version of the Dining-In, reflecting on a gathering that brings together those who make up the "backbone" of their respective branches of the Armed Forces. Noncommissioned officers from the Connecticut Army and Air National Guard make up the bulk of the attendees, but they have been joined increasingly every year by their counterparts in the chief petty officer corps.

In his remarks, Savino reflected on the growth of the event, and announced to the crowd of more than 300 that the event has grown and diversified enough to be renamed the "Connecticut Senior NCO/CPO Dining-In."

As a tribute to the growing support of CPOs from the Navy and the Coast Guard and their respective Reserve Components, Savino told the crowd that it's time to rename the event "The Connecticut Senior NCO/CPO Dining-In."

Savino spoke of the numerous VIPs who have attended the event through the years, including top officials from the National Guard Bureau, the top-ranking NCOs from the various armed services, the senior enlisted advisor to the assistant secretary of defense,

and many others. He also thanked all of the veterans who have participated in the Global War on Terror, and all conflicts going back to World War II. Veterans from various wars, including WW II, were in attendance.

"I am very proud of this event and even more honored to have instituted it. I believe to this day, that there is no other state that conducts a Dining-In where all branches of the military are present," Savino said.

In reflecting upon the legacy of the event he started a quarter of a century before, "The Godfather" of the Connecticut Guard said it was hard to believe that it has been 25 years since he started it. He also discussed the purpose of the event and why it beneficial to those who attend.

"This Dining-In is a unique event, which provides us the opportunity to meet old friends, share stories and engage in the camaraderie about being in the military. It provides an opportunity to visit with members of all services, discuss issues and to enjoy an evening where the theme is the importance of the NCO/CPO Corps and the values they bring to each of our services. And why not? We are NCOs/CPOs."

There are other purposes for the event, as well. During the evening, charitable donations are collected, under the guise of gratuitously assessed "fines," for violations of protocol, wearing of the uniform, and basically anything that the "senior vice" so decides.

"During the period 1982 through 1995, the last Dining-In I conducted, we had the opportunity to donate all fines to what was then Newington Children's Hospital. I am pleased to announce that we donated \$24,342.01. If I ever find out who the cheap SOB was that put the penny in – Look Out!"

"I am now even more pleased that our fines are donated to the CT National Guard Foundation which supports our deployed

troops and their families and the National Guard Association which seeks benefits for our Guard personnel. It makes me proud! It should make you proud! After all, you are NCOs and CPOs."

Savino also discussed the changes in the Guard's mission and responsibilities.

"So many changes have occurred since 1982. Because of those changes in our world, our Guard and Reserve can no longer be called 'Weekend Warriors.' Our Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, Coastguardsmen and all their reserve components are and will continue to be deployed throughout the world," said Savino.

He stressed that the increasing deployments require continued commitment from those who make up the NCO and CPO corps, who must continue to train, mentor and counsel the younger service personnel.

"Our NCO/CPO Corps, the finest in the world, has more responsibilities today than ever before. Our major responsibility to this day is still: 'Taking care of Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Coastguardsmen!' No one does it better. Take pride in the fact that you are NCOs/CPOs," Savino said.

Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Thaddeus Martin lauded the event's founder for his vision and foresight 25 years ago and for setting the example to keep the event growing as the Connecticut National Guard's mission has continued growing. He also thanked the Senior NCOs and CPOs in the crowd for what they do.

"Sergeant Major Savino had a lot of vision 25 years ago. We could not have possibly known the environment we're in today," Martin said, discussing how this event, like the responsibilities of Guard NCOs, has increased over the



years. He thanked all of the NCOs for their continued commitment. "What you do is truly making a difference in the Global War on Terror."

Savino also discussed the early days of the event, and a host who took so much interest in his client.

"I would also extend my thanks to the management and staff of the Aqua-Turf," Savino said. "They have been great supporters of our Dining-In and numerous other military functions. Sgt. Joe Calvanese Sr., a deceased Army veteran of WWII, and founder of the Aqua Turf, really enjoyed our affair. He used to look through the kitchen doors or sit in the back of the room and watch us have a good time. Thanks Joe! You were a great NCO!"





103 Security Forces participate

STORY & PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. JESSICA ROY
UNIT PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE
103RD SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

It isn't often in the National Guard that you get the opportunity to truly see what your co-workers are made of.

Over the course of two days, I was fortunate enough to have that chance and witness the end result of hard work, a strong commitment, dedication and training.

With the guidance of Chief Master Sgt. Dan Coppinger, Chief Master Sgt. Tim Shaw and Master Sgt. Shane Stabile, seven members of the 103rd Security Forces Squadron surprised a lot of people in the tactical law enforcement community as well as themselves.

It's just the second year of operation for the Conn. SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) Challenge. Nineteen teams participated this year, almost doubling the prior year's turnout.

Two slots were reserved for military teams and the rest went to real and operational SWAT Teams throughout the state.

The challenge was hosted by the West Hartford Police Department.

Their efforts and sacrifice made for an excellent competition. It was held at the

Conn. State Police range in Simsbury.

The team itself consisted of Tech. Sgt. Aaron Bowman, Tech. Sgt. James Reynolds, Staff Sgt. Chris Sixt, Staff Sgt. Scott King, Staff Sgt. Carlos Gonzalez, Senior Airman Bill Beeler and Senior Airman Brian Davies.

Training began roughly ten weeks prior to the competition. The group met once, maybe twice a week. Bowman and Davies were deployed most of the summer and weren't able to begin their training until a mere two weeks before they were supposed to compete.

Every member participated voluntarily and put in extra time to take part. All of these factors make the display of teamwork they exhibited all the more impressive.

The first day began with a brief opening ceremony to welcome everyone and from there the fun began. The first event was the Sniper Challenge. Reynolds and King were selected to participate in this two-man course. West Hartford PD granted these two a day of training at their range to practice firing prior to the competition. Reynolds and King were also able to familiarize themselves with the M-24 Sniper Weapon System that they would use to compete in the sniper challenge.

The next event was the Rifle Challenge. Bowman, Sixt, Gonzalez and Davies, with M-4 rifles and full battle gear, had to work as a team to complete the course. It entailed a 160-pound dummy which had to be pulled through the back of a police cruiser, a ten foot wall the whole team had to cross and a series of firing at various targets. Their performance was quite impressive to watch. Their movements were fluid and they looked like they had been working closely together forever.

After a lunch break and a chance to visit the various vendors, the team next conducted the Hostage Rescue Challenge. Part of this performance was recorded and aired for the NBC 30 News that evening.

The team had to wear their gas masks the entire time as well as all of their gear. It began by Davies firing two shots of 40mm smoke canisters into the building. Both of his shots were spot on and went through the windows.

The whole team then tactically approached the building with Reynolds in the lead carrying the "body bunker." Beeler and King both used a battering ram to move a 300-pound obstacle before anyone could go further. The team moved up the stairs to

the door and Sixt threw a diversionary device, known as a "flash-bang" into the house. The team entered swiftly. Inside, they had to neutralize all suspects and rescue a hostage in the dark, with only their flashlights to guide them. Once the suspects were handcuffed by Bowman, Sixt and King, they located the hostage. Beeler and Bowman carried him out while Gonzalez and the rest of the team provided security for their exit.

The last event of the day was the Handgun Challenge. This was similar to the rifle challenge but was an individual relay and not a team effort. They each had to run, slide or crawl through a tube, get themselves over a six foot wall, go through a course of fire with the M-9 pistol and return through the same obstacles to tag their teammate. They again had to wear their gas masks and full gear for this. Bowman went first, followed by Reynolds, Sixt, King and Gonzalez, with Davies finishing.

After four demanding events, the team went home to eat, rest and prepare for the next day. They left optimistic and ready for what lay ahead.

Day two of the SWAT Challenge was expected to be very taxing on all of the



Tech. Sgt. Aaron Bowman and Tech Sgt. James Reynolds, 103rd Security Forces Squadron Emergency Services Team members, lead the litter carry with the other members of the 103 SFS team at the 2006 Connecticut Special Weapons and Tactics Challenge in Simsbury Sept. 20, 2006.



Chief Master Sgt. Dan Coppinger, 103rd Security Forces Squadron, discussing the results from the Sniper Challenge with Staff Sgt. Scott King and Tech. Sgt. James Reynolds of the 103rd Security Forces Squadron Emergency Services Team, Sept 20, 2006 at the 2006 Connecticut Special Weapons and Tactics Challenge in Simsbury.



103rd Security Forces Squadron Emergency Services Team members Tech. Sgt. Aaron Bowman, Staff Sgt. Chris Sixt and Senior Airman Carlos Gonzalez exhibit their teamwork skills while helping Senior Airman Brian Davies over a wall obstacle during the rifle challenge Sept 20, 2006 at the 2006 Connecticut Special Weapons and Tactics Challenge in Simsbury.

in Connecticut Swat Challenge

participants. It began with the Three Gun Challenge. This was a six man event, operating on two man relays.

The competitors had to climb the wall and shoot at targets from the inside of a tactical vehicle. Reynolds and Davies were up first carrying M-4 rifles. Bowman and Sixt went next carrying M-870 shotguns. Beeler and Gonzalez finished with M-9 pistols. This event had our Air Force guys going head to head with the U.S. Army team. For those who are wondering, the Air Force won.

That left only one challenge; the Physical Training course. All the competitors knew about it, was that it was a five mile course with sixteen obstacles.

They had to carry their team flag throughout and two ruck sacks. One was full of gas masks and one was given to the officials. Each team had a few hours to mentally prepare themselves for what was to come.

The PT Challenge was held in West Hartford, spread throughout the reservoir. Bowman, Reynolds, Sixt, Gonzalez, King and Davies represented the 103 SFS in this final event. Chief Master Sgt. Coppinger and Chief Master Sgt. Shaw ran the whole course with their team. Before starting, the six guys had to do a tug-of-war against another team.

They won and got a sixty second head start over who they defeated. Their first event was to do twenty reps of a 100-pound pole across their shoulders, and then cross a portion of water which had thick mud.

After getting soaked, they were reunited with their second ruck, which was weighed down by a 30-pound sandbag. They were told that this ruck could not be placed down at any time during the course. The team shared the burden by alternating who carried it.

The event proved to be grueling. The team had to make quick decisions, test their physical strength, stamina and endurance. Some of the obstacles were similar to what the participants saw in the other challenges, such as the walls and moving the dummy.

Others were unexpected and very difficult. They had to push an approximately 20,000-pound tactical vehicle about fifty feet with a slight incline, run an uphill portion of the course in their gas masks, do litter and fireman carries, complete a mental challenge with a knotted rope, hold up a pull-up bar while two members did twenty each, bear crawl under cargo netting, land navigation and other similar events.

The most impressive challenge was when

Reynolds and Sixt had to pull themselves aerially across the reservoir on a zip line. Reynolds crossed it fast and smooth and Sixt moved at lightning speed.

They crossed the finish line as one unit and in good time. Beeler didn't participate in the obstacles but ran most of the way with his team.

Perhaps almost as impressive as the teams heroic performance, was the support they received along the way. Maj. Tom Hannon, Commander of the 103rd Security Forces Squadron, was present for the duration of both days. 103rd Security Forces Squadron First Sergeant Ed Gould and Col. Fred Miclon, 103rd Mission Support Group Commander, came by to cheer them on.

Master Sgt. Sharon Horan of the 103rd Military Personnel Flight watched almost the entire competition and helped with logistical support. Master Sgt. Stabile was able to videotape portions of the event and was like a father watching his children playing T-Ball.

Senior Airman Ian McMahon and Senior Airman Mike Stearns came by on the second day to watch the Physical Training Challenge.

I was able to see the team do almost every

obstacle of the course by running behind them most of the way. The excitement level was high and Hannon, McMahon and Stearns joined the run as well.

With the support and guidance of Shaw and Coppinger, the excellent leadership and direction of Bowman, the steady pace of Reynolds and the rest of the team just giving their absolute all, this event was just downright amazing to witness. We all gave our words of encouragement throughout and constantly commended the team on how great they were doing. And by being there, helping to keep them motivated, for a moment us outsiders got to feel like we were a part of it.

Everyone went back to Simsbury where a catered meal awaited. They ate a delicious dinner and spoke animatedly of their experiences. The event sponsors donated prizes which were raffled off and two members of the 103rd Security Forces Squadron won. The team finished 15th overall and are eagerly anticipating next year's competition. The official website offers the results of this year's competition as well as a history and information about future events. I highly recommend trying to go see it or getting involved. www.ctswatchallenge.com



The 103rd Security Forces Squadron Emergency Services Team members prepare to tactically enter a building during the Hostage Rescue Competition at the 2006 Connecticut Special Weapons and Tactics Challenge in Simsbury Sept. 20, 2006.



Staff Sgt. Carlos Gonzalez and the other members of the 103rd Security Forces Squadron Emergency Services Team use all of their strength to push an approximately 20,000 pound tactical vehicle during the Physical Training challenge portion of the 2006 Connecticut Special Weapons and Tactics Challenge in Simsbury Sept 21, 2006.

Guard celebrates Hispanic Heritage

MAJ. GEORGE H. WORRALL III
103RD FIGHTER WING AND
CAPT. AMY FLYNN
STATE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT MANAGER

Connecticut's National Guard presented the 2006 Hispanic Heritage Celebration 5 October 2006 at Bradley Air National Guard Base in conjunction with the National Guard Association of Connecticut and the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission.

"Hispanic Americans have enriched our nation so today we will honor their significant role in history," said Col. Frederick R. Miclon, commander, 103rd Mission Support Group, who opened the celebration with an official welcome.

The celebration included a sampling of South American food, a flamenco performance and featured a preview of an unreleased documentary as well as two Korean War veterans from the 65th Infantry Regiment.

"Special Emphasis Celebrations are conducted in an effort to increase multi-cultural awareness, celebrate our diverse workforce, provide education information to CTNG members and collaborate with various community organizations," said Capt. Amy Flynn, state equal employment manager, who planned the event. "All of these factors play a positive role in strengthening our [Guard] team and contributing to successful mission accomplishment."

Keynote speaker Noemi Figueroa Soulet, who wrote and directed the documentary, spoke about the history of Puerto Ricans in the U.S. armed forces.

"Hispanics have been active participants in this country's war efforts for centuries...a part of U.S. history," said Noemi Figueroa Soulet writer director and keynote speaker for the celebration.

Soulet's documentary 'The Puerto Rican Soldier' is in final production for public television. The film chronicles the Korean War history of the all Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment and will be the first major documentary film to chronicle their accomplishments.

"In recent years many have learned about the accomplishments of the African American Tuskegee Airmen or the Japanese

Nisei Soldiers; but, many have not yet heard of the all Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment," said Soulet, explaining the purpose of the film to tell the story of *The Borinqueneers* [the 65th Infantry Regiment's nickname].

Connecticut National Guard Soldiers and Airmen also listened to the stories of former Corporal Jamie Lopez and former Private First Class Eugenio Quevedo who served in different companies of the 65th Inf.Reg. during Korea.

A private first class from F Co. of the 65th, drafted on 9-11-1950 in New York, recounted how in his eleven months in Korea the company was brought in as U.S. forces were pushed almost into the sea at the city of Pusan and fought all the way to the 38th parallel.

"I saw many of the guys getting killed and wounded," said former Pfc. Eugenio Quevedo, in a voice strained by emotion. "We were the lucky ones that came out alive. I was proud to serve my country, the U.S., and Puerto Rico too."

A corporal from C Co. of the 65th explained how even though they were drafted in different places, he in Puerto Rico and Quevedo in New York they were both placed in the all Puerto Rican unit.

"I are (sic) very proud to belong to that unit and serve together with the American people, in one proud unit," said former Cpl. Jamie Lopez, who added that his son has now served 19 years. "I am proud to be American and Puerto Rican."

In addition to the presentation on the 65th Infantry Regiment, the event featured a performance by Valeriano "Val" Ramos and Sandra Hernandez. Val Ramos is widely recognized as one of the best Flamenco guitarists in the United States. His music has been featured on numerous television and radio shows and he has toured internationally and released albums. He played several selections accompanied by renowned flamenco dancer, Ms. Sandra Hernandez, who added percussion with her castanet's and foot falls as she danced.

So what next for special emphasis programs?

"I am currently seeking members of the Connecticut National Guard who would like to assist in planning and implementing future Special Emphasis Programs," said Flynn. "If anyone is interested they may contact me directly at (860) 878-6718 or

amy.flynn@us.army.mil."

Former Pfc. Eugenio Quevedo (right) and former Cpl. Jamie Lopez (left) speak about their experiences with the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as The Borinqueneers, during the Korean War at the 2006 Hispanic Heritage Celebration. The Borinqueneers were the only all Puerto Rican unit in Army history and earned many accolades for their service 5 October 2006. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jeanne E. Daigneau)



Acclaimed guitarist Valeriano "Val" Ramos (seated) and dancer Sandra Hernandez (dancing) perform a flamenco piece for attendees at the Connecticut National Guard's 2006 Hispanic Heritage Celebration at Bradley Air National Guard Base 5 October 2006. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jeanne E. Daigneau)

Connecticut Military Department News

Foot Guard Announces Soldier of the Year

Sgt. Mark Boudreau
1st Company Governor's Foot Guard

HARTFORD, CT October 10, 2006: Maj. Dennis Conroy, Commandant of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard, has announced the awarding of the Soldier of the Year award for 2006 to Cpl. Michael Infantino of Wethersfield, Connecticut.

The award was presented as part of the Foot Guard's annual Rochambeau Day celebration on Sept. 30. Rochambeau Day is the day on which the Foot Guard celebrates the anniversary of its founding, and this marked the unit's 235th anniversary. State of Connecticut Long Services Awards were also awarded to members of the organized militia units that had joined the Foot Guard for a combined drill in Bushnell Park.

Infantino was given this award because he is a dedicated, committed member of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard. He gives freely of his time to the membership and the efficient operation of the Organization. His dedication is evidenced by perfect attendance at all drills and Unit activities. Infantino is a member of the Color Guard unit of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard. As a member of the Color Guard, as well as an active member of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard Military Funeral Honor Squad, Infantino's movements have always been precise. His military bearing has been recognized by the Unit in his receipt of the Wilcox Medal as best drilled soldier and by the State Military Funeral Honors Coordinator. Infantino serves with distinction and is a credit to himself, the First Company Governor's Foot Guard, the Organized Militia and the State of Connecticut.

State Long Service Medals were awarded to the following members of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard for the period indicated:

1st Lt. Robert C. Lehman	35 years
Brevet Sgt. 1st Class Thomas J. Mulcahy	30 years
Brevet Capt. Thomas J. Satalino	25 years
Brevet Sgt. 1st Class Charles Lignelli	25 years
1st Lt. Christopher H. Cain	25 years
Brevet Maj. Lionel G. Fongemie	15 years
Cpl. Janet Augustine	10 years
Staff Sgt. Richard L. Gatewood	10 years
Brevet Staff Sgt. Kenneth R. McGrath	10 years
Cpl. Michael L. Boggio	10 years

The First Company Governor's Foot Guard was established in 1771 and is the oldest military organization in continuous existence in the United States.



Soldier Of The Year, Cpl, Michael Infantino receives his Soldier of the Year Award from BG Steven Scorzato and Major Dennis Conroy. (Photo courtesy of SGT Kevin Cormack, 1GFG)

2GFG Band keeps busy in 2006



Gov. M. Jodi Rell, (center) spends time with the members of the 2nd Company Governor's Foot Guard Band after the send-off ceremony for the 192nd Engineers. The band has support several National Guard functions during the year and has raised more than \$5,000 for the Connecticut National Guard Foundation. (Photo courtesy Staff Sgt. Ralph Sherman, 2GFG)

1st Co. Horse Guards honor Veterans for service



2nd Lt. Michael Downes
1st Co. Governor's Horse Guards

In a brief ceremony the officers and enlisted members of the 1st Company Governor's Horse Guards took time to honor and recognize the past war time military service of many of their members and retired staff members. Those members were presented with recently commissioned Connecticut Veterans War Time Service medal and ribbon.

The medal is awarded by the State Department of Veterans' Affairs in conjunction with the Adjutant General to veterans who served during a time of war, and either lived in Connecticut during their service, or lives in the state at the time of the award.

Receiving medals were: for

World War II – Capt. John Williams (U.S. Army), Capt. Donald Loveland (U.S. Army), 2nd Lt. George Kelaita (U.S. Army).

Korean Conflict – Maj. James Murdock (U.S. Army), Capt. Clyde Bassett (U.S. Army), Capt. Ronald Matthewson (U.S. Army), 1st Lt. Richard McDonald (U.S. Army).

Vietnam Conflict – Maj. Andrew J. Arsenault (U.S. Army), 1st Lt. Steve Ardussi (U.S. Navy), 2nd Lt. Dale Barsness (U.S. Air Force), 1st Sgt. Robert Mazzara (U.S. Army), Staff Sgt. Leonard Tolisano (U.S. Air Force), Sgt. John Kores (U.S. Air Force), and Pfc. Joseph Loyd (U.S. Army).

The First Company Governor's Horse Guards is the oldest continuously active mounted cavalry unit in the United States. Members of the unit have served the nation in every armed conflict since the American Revolution and the dawn of the Republic.

Images of the 102nd Infantry



Photos were taken during Maj. Gen. Thad Martin and Comma





in Afghanistan

and Sgt. Maj. Raymond Zastaury's second trip to Afghanistan.



Recruiting & Retention: Mission One

American Eagles: An inspirational symbol of past and present

STAFF SGT. PABLO RAVIZZOLI
R&R FORCE

The Bald Eagle, our national bird, has been a symbol of pride and inspiration for generations. It is our stamp of patriotism and it has been a rallying point for all those that have served and fought to uphold everything it represents.

This has held true for Ralph Panagrosso, Italian-born combat Veteran of World War II. Serving in the 718th Armor Battalion, Ralph took part in the invasion of the Philippines. After having landed in the fifth wave from the Lady Golf, he was wounded during a combat patrol when a Japanese fragmentation grenade detonated near him. As a recipient of the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, Ralph remembers the feeling of inspiration at the sight of the American Bald Eagle.

This past August, Ralph learned that his nephew, Lt. Col. Scott Panagrosso would become the new commander of the Recruiting and Retention Force. He took the time to think about what kind of inspirational words he might give his nephew as he prepared to accept one of the most challenging assignments outside the combat zone. The American eagle was it. Ralph put thought into action and carved an American eagle statue that would symbolize that rally cry to continue to push forward in the face of challenges.

Now, as we have entered the new fiscal year, we can already look back on an amazing month of September for the Recruiting and Retention team with 81 new enlistments (best since 1998) to close out the year at 634 (more



Ralph Panagrosso and his nephew Lt. Col. Scott Panagrosso with the eagle Ralph carved for Scott when he learned Scott would be facing the biggest challenge of his career: Recruiting and Retention Commander. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Pablo Ravizzoli, R&R Force)

than 60% better than the previous year).

Some things in the military change and some will always be the same. The Recruiting force for the Connecticut Army National Guard came together and put forth

a team effort that may turn out to be a deciding factor in the future of some Connecticut units.

The American eagle and our ability to rally the troops around a common goal were true

in World War II for Ralph Panagrosso and they are still true today in the Connecticut Guard.



Recruiting Force gets new tool for drawing interest

The Connecticut National Guard Recruiting and Retention Force has received a new tool to aid in its recruiting efforts: a state-of-the-art mobile recruiting station, or van. The van comes complete with computers and computer work stations, interior and exterior viewable flat screen televisions, satellite television and retractable awning, among other features. Recruiters will be able to access the internet while talking to potential Soldiers, and tell them whether the field they are interested in has openings in Connecticut and when there are available school dates. The van will allow recruiters to do a great deal of their work on the spot at off-site venues. See next month's Guardian for more on this van and its capabilities. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)

Governor Rell reminds residents of tax-free home weatherization products

Gov. M. Jodi Rell has once again encouraged state residents to make the most of their fall home improvement purchases with the state's Sales Tax Holiday on Home Weatherization Products. Various energy efficient home heating and weatherization products are exempt from the state sales tax from now until June 30, 2007.

"With the cold weather fast approaching, it is time to do everything we can to lessen the impact of home heating bills," Rell said. "By providing a tax exemption for items that make our homes more energy efficient, the state is helping taxpayers stretch those home heating dollars a little further."

The governor said she is reminding state residents of the home weatherization exemption now, because homeowners who may be contemplating purchases like a new furnace or new windows can save money when they buy items that meet the exemption criteria.

"By purchasing items that meet the sales tax exemption standards, not only will residents save on the sales tax," Rell said, "but buying items that meet these energy efficiency standards will reduce the amount of energy needed to heat homes this winter,

making family budgets more manageable."

Some of the items exempt from the sales tax include:

- * Programmable thermostats;
- * Window film;
- * Insulation (various types);
- * Water heater blankets;
- * Natural gas furnaces that meet the federal Energy Star standard;
- * Propane furnaces that meet the federal Energy Star standard; and
- * Windows that meet the federal Energy Star standard.

For a complete list of exempt items and an explanation of the law, see Special Notice 2006(1) on the Department of Revenue Services Web site at www.ct.gov/DRS or request a copy from the DRS Forms Unit at (860) 297-4753.



Connecticut heating oil dealers donate to Guard families, again

"With Connecticut's sons and daughters serving the cause of freedom far from home again this year, we can think of no better way to support them than by our helping the National Guard Foundation help the families of our state's servicemen and

women that are most in need...."

Heating oil dealers support military families The Independent Connecticut Petroleum Association [ICPA], representing the majority of the state's more than 350 home heating oil dealers,

renewed its support for the families of Connecticut's servicemen and women who are on duty in Iraq and Afghanistan who are in need of heat this winter. Association Executive Director Gene Guilford said, "Over the last two years our state's local heating oil dealers have contributed 42,000

gallons of free heating oil to the families of our servicemen and women who are most in need. In the 2006/07 season we have a commitment for another 30,000 gallons if it is needed."

The program is run with and through the Connecticut National Guard Foundation, and Col. Tom Thomas, 860-548-3246.

Families of servicemen and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan make requests through the Foundation, and then the Foundation contacts ICPA to arrange for deliveries throughout the winter. Guilford added, "With Connecticut's sons and daughters serving the cause of freedom far from home again this year, we can think of no better way to support them than by our helping the Connecticut National Guard Foundation help the families of our state's servicemen and women that are most in need."

ICPA represents more than 500 Connecticut based independent businesses. These businesses employ 13,000 Connecticut citizens and supply the majority of our state's 1,600 motor fuels outlets and 350 heating fuels dealers. ICPA's offices are at 10 Alcap Ridge, Cromwell, CT 06416.

Mail early to meet postal deadlines

ASHLEY STETTER
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Military postal workers across the world are "making a list and checking it twice" to ensure that Soldiers serving far from home receive packages in time for the holiday season.

Mail is abundant November through December, and postal workers advise all those sending packages overseas to obey official holiday Mail-By deadlines to guarantee timely delivery.

According to statistics by the Joint Military Terminal, Kuwait, postal workers in the terminal's 10-post-office region processed approximately 2.5 million pounds of incoming and 3 million pounds of outgoing mail in November 2005.

A similar work load is expected for 2006, with Mail-By-dates beginning Nov. 13 for parcel post and extending to Dec. 4-19 for priority and express mail services.

These deadlines are rapidly approaching, and military postal officials have issued suggestions and other helpful resources to make mailing fast and easy.

For the convenience of spouses, friends and family members sending mail

overseas, pre-addressed, printable, postage paid APO/FPO address labels are available at the United States Postal Service's Click-N-Ship® web-site, and free packing materials are available by calling 1-800-610-8734.

DOD mailing guidelines require use of the service member's full name (with or without rank or rating), return address, military organization or unit, APO/FPO address and the nine-digit ZIP code, if one is assigned.

Following these guidelines will get mail overseas sooner, giving Soldiers like Sgt. Normajeon Pangelinan, who is currently serving with the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq, a taste of the holiday season.

"Holiday packages from home improve Soldier morale because we are constantly reminded that people are thinking of us," said Pangelinan. "Mail reminds us that Americans appreciate what we are doing and will continue to support us."

As for what to send, Command Sgt. Maj. James B. Roth, who served in Afghanistan with the XVIII Airborne Corps, offers a simple suggestion.

"It's not the cost of the item that counts; it's the thought. New socks, underwear, toiletries, batteries, telephone cards, books and holiday items are always welcome and greatly appreciated," he said.

Holiday items are fine, but postal officials say packages going to Iraq and Afghanistan may not include: pork or pork by-products, alcoholic beverages, pornographic or sexually related items or unauthorized political materials. If any of these items are found, postal officials say, none of the contents will be delivered.

In addition, programs that once allowed the general public to send mail addressed to "Any Service Member" no longer exist, and packages addressed as such will not reach their destination.

There are many organizations out there for those wishing to send to unspecified Soldiers. Please visit www.AmericaSupportsYou.com to find organizations that help support all those serving.

Remember that Mail-By-dates vary by destination and mailing method and promise delivery by Christmas Day. Senders

preferring delivery before Dec. 25 should mail 10 days earlier than the suggested deadlines.

The following shipping dates are recommended for military mail:

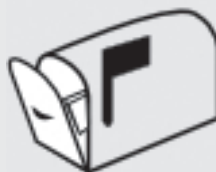
APOAE Zip 093

Parcel Post: Nov. 13
Space Available Mail: Nov. 27
Parcel Airlift Mail: Dec. 2
Priority Mail/First-Class Mail, Letter and Cards: Dec. 4
Express Mail Military Service: Not Available

APO AE Zips 090-092, 094-098; APOAA Zip 340; APOAP Zip 962-966

Parcel Post: Nov. 13
Space Available Mail: Nov. 27
Parcel Airlift Mail: Dec. 4
Priority Mail/First-Class Mail, Letter and Cards: Dec. 11
Express Mail Military Service: Dec. 19

For further answers to your mailing questions please contact (800) ASK-USPS or the Military Postal Agency at 1-800-810-6098.



Military Matters

Financial readiness equals mission readiness, official says

ARMY SGT. SARA WOOD
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Servicemembers and their families need to learn the importance of financial management and smart saving practices, so the Defense Department is focusing its efforts to make sure troops are prepared for the future, a senior DOD official said Oct. 17.

“One of the most important aspects of our responsibility at DOD is to help military families with their quality of life and with the programs and activities that will help them have a full and successful life that we think the military offers,” said Leslye Arsht, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy.

“We’ve worked hard to put together a comprehensive program of financial assistance and guidance to help military families move toward a culture of saving and planning for the future,” she said.

One of the initiatives DOD is pursuing is a program called Military Saves. This program is under America Saves, a nationwide campaign in which a broad

coalition of nonprofit, corporate and government groups helps individuals and families save and build wealth.

The idea behind Military Saves is to encourage military families, particularly young families, to start saving early for retirement and to build a financial safety cushion to use in case of emergencies, Arsht said. Having this cushion will prevent families from seeking short-term loans, which often come with high interest rates, she said.

“The military pay system makes it really easy for you to do these allocations in your paycheck,” she said. “These small amounts of money — \$10 or \$20 a month — actually add up to quite a bit when you do it on a regular basis.”

Another program DOD recently launched is Moneywise in the Military, a traveling conference done in partnership with the PBS television network that addresses topic such as staying out of debt, bankruptcy, home ownership, saving and insurance. The first of these conferences was held Sept. 30 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center here and was hosted by Kelvin Boston, host of the

PBS television series, “Moneywise.”

Moneywise in the Military proved to be popular in its first conference, drawing 200 people on a Saturday afternoon, Arsht said. Boston is a popular television personality who directs his regular programming to middle- and low-income Americans, but has adapted it for military families, she said.

“We see these as very popular activities for every age group, but we think especially important for our young members and their families,” she said.

Moneywise in the Military will travel to five installations around the country, and possibly to more locations as DOD develops its relationship with PBS, Arsht said.

DOD has developed partnerships with nonprofit financial planners and organizations that work through family centers, providing counseling and to help military members in financial trouble., Arsht said. DOD leaders also encourage servicemembers to use financial institutions on military bases, which offer

short-term loans with low interest rates, she said.

“Financial readiness is equivalent to mission readiness,” she said. “We have records and history that show if you are worried about your finances, you’re not going to be as ready or as focused on the mission. So we want to help families address these issues before they become a crisis and to really encourage them to make these sounder financial choices.”

Most military families get into trouble when small emergencies come along and they’re already stretched thin financially, Arsht said. DOD’s financial readiness campaign aims to teach servicemembers how to save and plan for these emergencies, so they’re prepared and ready to do their job, she said.

“Because we see financial stability and financial readiness as equating with mission readiness, it’s really important to DOD to be able to help our families make good choices, and to start this culture of saving that will keep them from getting into the cycle of debt,” she said.

OFFICERS CLUB OF CONNECTICUT
Hartford Armory, CT (860) 249-3634



November 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Plan your holiday party, your fund raiser, your special event at the O'Club Now. (860) 249-3634			1	2	3	4 NATIONAL GUARD DRILL
5 NATIONAL GUARD DRILL	6	7 Election Day 6 PM Quiet Birdmen Dinner	8	9 6 PM AUSA Dinner	10 Veterans Day observed (Holiday) Club Closed USMC Birthday Semper Par	11 Veterans Day
12	13	14	15	16 12 Noon MOAA Lunch 5-30 9:00 PM Board of Gov meeting	17 Italian Night with Bruno Cerati for your Dancing and Listening Pleasure Italian Menu \$30 Reservations 249-3634	18
19	20	21 12 Noon Ladies Oclub Lunch	22	23 THANKSGIVING CLUB CLOSED	24 CLUB CLOSED (Day after)	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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November 17th \$30 per person (plus Tax & tip)

OFFICERS CLUB OF CONNECTICUT



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DINNER - DANCE

Friday November 17th, 2006

Appetisers 6:30 Dinner 7:00

Starters & Hors d'oeuvres

An array of Delicious Meats, Cheeses, Grilled Vegetables,
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Caesar Salad

ENTREES

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to beautiful Italian music

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CHIEF MASTER SGT.
ROBERT HALL

Leaving the Comfort Zone

In this month’s article I want to talk about leaving your comfort zone. We all have our own comfort zones where we feel we have the skills and knowledge to do the best we can. Sometimes in your careers you may have to leave that zone and venture in to areas that you are not the most familiar with. You may have to do that for the better of the work center, the squadron, or the wing.

Your success will be achievable in large part by the attitude with which you approach your new challenges. If you take the approach that the new challenge is an opportunity to excel, then most likely you will. If you want to be a contributor to the betterment of the Connecticut National Guard then you have to be willing to leave your comfort zone.

I had the pleasure of being able to attend a dinner in honor of a recent retiree from the Connecticut Guard. During the course of the evening I witnessed the attendees holding multiple conversations about a wide variety of subjects. Eavesdropping on

several of them it occurred to me that there was a common denominator amongst all of them.

Each of the conversations were about times these Guard members had spent together during a deployment or during annual field training or something of that nature. I thought to myself that I couldn’t think of any time in my civilian world where I had ever heard conversations like that. It really points out the fact that as Guardsmen and women there is a bond that no other profession can match. A true brotherhood.

With the inevitable transformations and new exciting missions that that are coming down the road we must make sure that all of our Soldiers and Airman get the opportunity to leave their comfort zones and experience the thrill of being a part of history and the future all in one.

As we enter in to the Holiday season let us not forget those who are not able to be home with their families and friends. Take a little extra time in your busy schedules to make sure your buddies are OK. Look out for one another.

Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

Commentary

Why Army Strong?

LT. COL. WAYNE SHANKS
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

I have to admit when I first heard ‘Army Strong’ I thought, “That’s it?”

But as I’ve thought about it, Army Strong is much more than two words. It represents the best of the Army; the best of America; the best of each and every Soldier.

I think Army Strong works better if you imply “I am, You are or We are” Army Strong, but what does it mean to be Army Strong?

Army Strong is more than muscles; it’s the Soldiers who can endure long patrols constantly alert for hidden dangers, or run faster and further than they ever thought they could.

Army Strong is more than sheer military might (tanks, helicopters, artillery, missiles, etc...); it’s the Soldiers who drive, fly or shoot all that hardware.

Army Strong is more than completing tough training; it’s parachuting out of an airplane at 800 feet when you’re scared to death of heights.

Army Strong is more than being smart; it’s having the knowledge and tenacity to develop a way to solve seemingly impossible problems.

Army Strong is more than combat operations that destroy an enemy; it’s the Soldiers and leaders who plan and execute

it – it’s Boots on the Ground.

Army Strong is more than the pungent smell of burnt gunpowder after a firefight; it’s the Soldiers whose well aimed fire protected their buddies.

Army Strong is more than intelligence systems, UAVs and GPS; it’s the Soldiers who bring that information to the leaders who can use it to stop an insurgent attack.

Army Strong is more than beans, bullets and repair parts; it’s the Soldiers who ship, manage, prepare, repair and move all the things that keep the Army rolling along.

Army Strong is more than just doing what’s right; it’s the Army values embodied by Soldiers who carry out their duties everyday.

Army Strong is more than a “Welcome Home” sign taped to a fence; it’s the “Daddy, daddy, daddy!” yelled across a tarmac late at night and a long embrace at the end of a deployment.

Army Strong is more than an individual Soldier’s strength; it’s the teamwork of a well-trained squad executing actions on contact.

In short, Army Strong is far more than two words; it’s the underlying moral fiber, the deep-seated emotions and the total determination every Soldier carries.

No one can stop this team – it’s Army Strong.

Send Letters to the Editor to:
Editor, Connecticut Guardian, National Guard Armory
360 Broad Street
Hartford, CT 06105-3795

or by email to: ctguardian@us.army.mil

All letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification.
Letters may be edited for grammar, spelling and space, but not for content.

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COMMISSARY & EXCHANGE DIRECTORY

Here is a current directory of area commissaries and exchanges along with their phone numbers. Always call ahead to verify hours as they may change without notice. A valid i.d. card is necessary to use these facilities. Contact your unit administrator if you or your dependants need a card. If you have trouble, contact the State Family Program Office at 1-

AIR NATIONAL GUARD
East Granby
TUESDAY – FRIDAY:
10:00 – 5:00
SATURDAY: 10:00 – 4:00
SUNDAY & MONDAY: Closed
UTAs: Open Saturday &
Sunday: 10:00 – 5:00

COAST GUARD ACADEMY
New London
MONDAY – FRIDAY:
9:00 – 5:00
SATURDAY: 9:00 – 3:00
SUNDAY: Closed

CAMP RELL POST EXCHANGE
MONDAY: Closed
TUESDAY – SATURDAY:
10:00 – 5:00
SUNDAY: 10:00 – 4:00

COAST GUARD STATION
120 Woodward Avenue
New Haven, CT
MONDAY – FRIDAY:
9:00 – 4:30
SATURDAY: 9:00 – 2:00
SUNDAY: Closed

WEST POINT, NEW YORK
Exchange Hours:
SATURDAY – WEDNESDAY:
10:00 – 6:00
THURSDAY & FRIDAY:
10:00 – 7:00
Phone: (914) 446-5406
Commissary Hours:
MONDAY: Closed
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY:
10:00 – 6:00
THURSDAY: 10:00 – 7:00
FRIDAY: 10:00 – 6:00
SATURDAY: 9:00 – 5:00

SUB BASE, NEW LONDON
Exchange Hours:
MON., TUES., WED.,
FRI.: 9:00 – 6:00
THURSDAY: 9:00 – 7:00
SATURDAY & SUNDAY:
9:00 – 5:00
HOLIDAYS: 9:00 – 4:00
Phone: (860) 694-3811
Commissary Hours:
MONDAY: Closed
TUE., WED. & FRI.: 9:00 – 6:00
THURSDAY: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
SATURDAY: 8:00 – 5:00

Homefront

In defense of Connecticut's children: *Check out the Connecticut Clearinghouse*

STAFF SGT. JILLIAN ROLLA
DDR/CONNECTICUT CLEARINGHOUSE

Whether you are an individual, a returning military member, or a college student the Connecticut Clearinghouse (Library) is definitely a place that everyone should visit in person or online.

The Connecticut Clearinghouse is a library and resource center for alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, as well as mental health and wellness. It is free to come in and browse what we have available however we do request a \$10 membership fee for the year for those who wish to borrow our items.

As a National Guardsman who currently works at the Connecticut Clearinghouse I have come to realize that it is a shame that the general public, and fellow military family are unaware of the resources offered here.

This library is unlike others in that it is a judgment free zone that specializes in human issues facing our population today.

Not only can this unique library offer wonderful books on such topics like raising families, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Recovery, it also offers informative videos for check out, curriculum, pamphlets on all types of issues, and posters.

On the first Friday of every month at 3pm we show one of our videos from our library and all are welcome to come and view. All the library contents are listed on our website however if you are having difficulty finding information we are only a phone call away. Even if you feel you live to far away from Plainville to visit, keep in mind we are happy to mail out any requested items to our members.

Education Essentials *Money for nothing...Well, for education*

CAPT. JEREMY LINGENFELSER
STATE EDUCATION OFFICER

If someone offered you \$40,000 would you just say, "No thank you, I do not need it?" Well that is exactly what you are doing if you decline all of your education benefits. Tuition and fees at a Connecticut state school far exceed \$40,000 for a four year degree and, in most cases you can get your degree with no out of pocket costs.

There are 24 federal and state education benefit programs tailored for members of the guard. They vary from actual cash payments (Montgomery GI Bill and Federal Tuition Assistance) to study guides (The Student Guide to Success) to testing services (SAT, ACT, CLEP, DSST, Excelsior, GMAT, GRE). There is bound to be a program that fits what you are looking for.

Do you not feel like you have enough time? There are a myriad of programs available that cater to working adults. College level testing is good way to earn credits without the constraints of attending regularly scheduled classes. With the study aids available you

can work on classes at your own pace and take the tests when you are ready.

Already have a college degree, how about a Masters degree? There are programs that can assist you in working towards your upper level degree and improve your employability.

Having a Masters will move you even further into the professional area of your occupation. Working on a Masters degree can also be done on a part time basis.

Taking college classes earns you promotion points and can prepare you for future leadership positions.

If pursuing a college degree is something you may be interested in, please give the education office a call at (860) 524-4816/20. We will work with you to develop a plan that is catered to your personal needs to utilize your education benefits.

For more information on any of your education benefits, you can also visit the virtual armory at www.virtualarmory.com. Just click on the education tab and you will find information about all of the federal and state benefits.

Students can apply for DeCA scholarships at commissaries

BONNIE POWELL
DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY

The Scholarships for Military Children Program applications, sponsored by the Defense Commissary Agency, are now available for 2007.

Applications for the \$1,500 scholarships are available at 264 commissaries worldwide, or can be downloaded through links at www.commissaries.com, www.militaryscholar.org or www.dodea.edu.

"Scholarships for Military Children is a wonderful military community program," said Patrick Nixon, DeCA director and chief executive officer. "Nearly 3,000 scholarships totaling over \$4 million have been awarded since the first awards were given in 2001."

The \$1,500 scholarships are available for children of military active-duty, retired, Guard and Reserve servicemembers. Most of the funds are donated by manufacturers, brokers and suppliers selling groceries in commissaries; every dollar donated to the program by industry or the general public goes to fund the scholarships. The program is administered by the Fisher House Foundation.

A significant number of scholarships, about 10 percent every year, go to high school students at Department of Defense schools overseas.

"Every cent that community organizations can mobilize to support college-bound students is an investment in the future," said Joseph Tafoya, director of the Department of Defense Education Activity.

"With college costs soaring, our DOD students and their parents appreciate every available scholarship to help defray the cost, and the scholarships enable many of our families to better afford the tuition and provide an incentive for students to work hard," Tafoya said.

"They also demonstrate that military communities are committed to education

and increased opportunities for all students," he said.

The scholarship program has also made inroads to increasing support from the "nonmilitary" community. California high school students sponsoring golf tournaments in 2006 raised thousands of dollars to donate to the program, and already for 2007, a private foundation has made a substantial donation.

"We're excited to see this worthwhile program gaining recognition and funding from the community at large," said Jim Weiskopf, vice president of communications at Fisher House Foundation.

"Commissary industry support has been amazing and increased public support can only help ensure that the Scholarships for Military Children program continues to benefit the military community for many years to come," Weiskopf said.

Donations can be made through the link at www.militaryscholar.org, the official program Web site.

Applications for 2007, which includes an essay on "how and why" the applicant would change an historical event, must be turned in at a commissary by close of business Feb. 21, 2007. At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of military active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired personnel. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2007, or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Visit the
Connecticut Guardian
on-line at
www.ct.ngb.army.mil

HANDYPERSON HOTLINE



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TODAY
TO VOLUNTEER
YOUR SKILLS

Veterans' Assistance

VA services for Veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) continue their partnership to meet the needs of our newest veterans – the men and women who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF) – by assisting them with a smooth transition from active duty to civilian life.

VA's goal is to ensure that every seriously injured or ill serviceman and woman returning from combat receives priority consideration and world-class service.

Together VA and DoD are finding ways to move records more efficiently between the two agencies; share critical medical information electronically; protect the health of troops stationed in areas where environmental hazards pose a threat; process benefits claims quickly and efficiently; and, in every way possible, hold open the doors to an uncomplicated passage from soldier to citizen.

Benefits and Services

Active-duty personnel, and Reservist or National Guard members who serve in a theater of combat operations are eligible for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for injuries or illnesses they believe are related to combat service for a period up to two years beginning on the date of discharge or release from service.

This two-year eligibility for medical care is available even if there is insufficient medical evidence to conclude that the veteran's illness is the result of combat service.

At the end of the two-year period, these veterans can continue to receive free health care for injuries and illnesses officially connected to military service.

In addition to health care, VA offers a spectrum of programs for veterans, including disability compensation, vocational rehabilitation, prosthetic services, life insurance, pension, education benefits, specially adapted housing and automobile grants, and survivor and burial benefits.

Many VA services are provided at a higher priority or on an expedited basis for this newest generation of combat-disabled veterans.

VA programs for veterans with a service-connected injury or illness apply equally to those who served in the regular active duty forces and to National Guard members or reservists returning from federal activation.

VA Outreach

In an effort to assist wounded military members and their families, VA placed

benefits counselors and social workers at key military hospitals where severely wounded service members from Iraq and Afghanistan are frequently sent.

Currently, six staff members are assigned full-time to work with patients at both the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and the Bethesda Naval Medical Center in Maryland.

Four of the counselors specialize in benefit programs and two are social workers who facilitate health care coordination as service members transition from military to VA care.

Similar teams work with patients, discharge planners, and other military staff at six other key DoD medical centers caring for seriously injured troops: Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Ft. Gordon (Ga.); Brooke Army Medical Center, Ft. Sam Houston (Texas); Madigan Army Medical Center at Western Regional Medical Command, Tacoma (Wash.); Darnall Army Medical Center at Ft. Hood (Texas); Evans Army Hospital at Ft. Carson (Colorado); and Camp Pendleton Naval Medical Center in San Diego, (Calif.).

Throughout the nation, VA officials identify service members from Iraq or Afghanistan for special outreach efforts. Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom coordinators at each VA benefits office and medical center coordinate with DoD discharge staff to ensure a smooth

transition to VA services at locations nearest to the veteran's residence after discharge.

Through this coordination, the veterans are known at the local VA facilities that process their benefits claims, and continuity of their medical care, including medications and therapy, is ensured.

Military Services Briefings

Military Services Briefings are designed to ensure that servicemembers are aware of their VA benefits and to provide assistance as needed. Briefings include separation and retirement seminars, pre- and post-deployment briefings as well as the formal Transition Assistance Program.

For those leaving active duty due to medical problems, the outreach effort is intensified to ensure a full understanding of the VA compensation process and vocational rehabilitation and employment programs.

Generally briefings range from one to three hours; however, the formal TAP workshop is a three-day seminar conducted by VA, DoD and the Department of Labor at military installations for personnel within 90 days of separation. It provides a number of services to assist military personnel in making a smooth transition to civilian life.

All military services briefings cover the full range of benefits administered by VA including compensation, education, vocational rehabilitation and employment, health care, insurance and more.

Benefits Delivery at Discharge

A joint VA-DoD initiative is helping personnel file for and receive service-connected disability compensation benefits more quickly than in the past.

The goal is to adjudicate claims within 30 days of discharge by examining service members as part of the discharge process.

By comparison, VA's national average processing time is 163 days for claims requiring a disability rating.

In the Benefits Delivery at Discharge program, the medical information needed to begin the VA claims process carries over from DoD to VA seamlessly.

In addition, if a service member is found to be disabled, additional applicable vocational and employment services may be quickly initiated.

Additional Resources

VA has brochures and other information for veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom available on the Web:

Veterans Benefits Information	http://www.vba.va.gov/
Information for Iraqi Freedom Veterans	http://www.va.gov/gulfwar/
Afghanistan Service Information	http://www.va.gov/environagents/
PTSD and Iraq Veterans	http://www.ncptsd.org/topics/war.html
VA Health Care Enrollment Information	http://www.va.gov/elig/
Brochures and Publications, Including: * A Summary of VA Benefits for National Guard and Reserve Personnel * Health Care and Assistance for U.S. Veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom	http://www.vethealth.cio.med.va.gov/Pubs/Ind ex.htm
Online Benefits Applications	http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/
Women Veterans Health and Benefits Information	http://www.va.gov/wwhp/ http://www.va.gov/womenvet/ http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Topics/Women/

Guarding Your Rights

Legal Affairs: *Indebtedness can damage your military career*

CAPT. ROBERT E. HENRY
JAG

Indebtedness of military personnel is a growing problem for service members and commanders.

A recent report by the Associated Press disclosed that the number of security clearances revoked in the Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force rose from 254 in 2002 to 2,654 in 2005. Financial problems are the primary reason for the revocation of security clearances.

Financial problems are a common cause of depression. They detract from mission focus.

This in turn makes it more likely that service members who operate weapons systems and equipment, handle sensitive information and provide medical care will make mistakes with catastrophic results for them and their comrades. Cash strapped personnel are more likely to sell classified information or equipment.

The recent rise in indebtedness is attributed to the increased number and duration of deployments supporting the Global War on Terror.

Common factors in rising indebtedness include divorce, gambling and a compulsion to "live it up" prior to or on return from a deployment.

Many returning service members do not adjust to the reality that the additional, untaxed pay they received while deployed vanishes when they rotate home and do not budget accordingly.

Department of Defense policy on service member indebtedness is addressed in DoD Directive 1344.9 and 32 CFR §§112, 113 and service specific policies, such as AR 600-15 and AR 608-99.

The regulations require service members to pay their lawful debts. This policy and its implementation are often misunderstood. While the military cannot directly order service members to pay debts, (DODD 1344.9 §4.1), there are steps that commanders can, and in some cases, are required to take to address legal obligations.

Commanders will insure that the creditor has complied with the provisions of DODD 1344.9 §4.3.2 before taking action. Creditors must show that they have attempted to directly recover the debt from the debtor.

They must also demonstrate that the claim is a bona fide, non-exorbitant debt. If the service member is stationed at a military installation in a state that prohibits direct contact with the employer of a debtor without the written consent of the employee or a court ordered judgment, the creditor must provide proof of compliance with these pre-conditions

as well prior to receiving assistance from the command.

Upon the creditors compliance with the foregoing provisions commanders should interview the debtor. The service member should be informed of the DoD policy on indebtedness and given copies of DODD 1344.9 and any service specific regulations.

Advise the service member that failure to pay a lawful debt can result in adverse administrative action, including separation, loss of security clearance or denial of reenlistment, or UCMJ action.

The service member should be encouraged to pay the debt directly. Use of a voluntary allotment is a permissible procedure to resolve the debt. The commander should advise the creditor of the counseling and the service member's intention regarding the debt.

If the debt is not paid in a timely manner the commander should advise the creditor that a debt has to be reduced to a final judgment for formal DoD assistance.

Once the debt is in the form of a court order the creditor should be directed to contact the service specific agent designated to process involuntary allotments.

The creditor should be additionally advised that an involuntary allotment will not be processed if the service member

could not participate in the final judgment process do to military service exigencies or a defense exists under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

An exception to the foregoing is a collection action for child support or alimony. Service members are required to provide family support with or without a court order. This is particularly true if the service member is receiving BAH. Commanders can make a lawful order to provide family support in accordance with service specific regulations that is enforceable under the Article 92, (Failure to Obey a Lawful Order), or Article 139, UCMJ.

As DODD 1344.9 states "Members of the Military Service are expected to pay their just financial obligations in a proper and timely manner."

Failure to do so reflects badly on military service and calls into question the judgment and integrity of the individual.

By properly managing their personal affairs service members protect themselves from adverse action and show themselves to be trustworthy individuals deserving greater responsibility and promotion.



WAYNE E. TRAVERS JR.
CTESGR PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN
WAYNE.E.TRAVERS@US.ARMY.MIL

GAO survey highlights employer-employee problems

A 2005 survey by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) shows that despite hundreds of thousands of employers and employees receiving information on the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), there is still work to be done.

The GAO study found that 8 percent of 119,761 members of the reserve component were not promptly rehired by their employer and as many as 14 percent lost seniority, seniority-related pay or benefits.

Additionally, approximately 9 percent didn't receive immediate reinstatement of employer-provided health insurance.

ESGR works with employers by providing information and resources designed "to gain and maintain active support" for those who serve in the National Guard and Reserve Components, but the study found that many service members do not use ESGR as a resource for solving employment issues related to military duty.

Furthermore, a 2004 Department of Defense survey showed that at least 72

percent of Selected Reserve members with USERRA problems never sought assistance for those problems.

ESGR can be a productive participant in reversing these trends.

The DOD agency has more than 4,000 volunteers who are organized into state committees and help to educate both employers and servicemembers about USERRA.

Throughout the 50 states and U.S. territories, ESGR has approximately 800 individuals trained as impartial ombudsmen to informally mediate USERRA issues that arise between servicemembers and their employers.

Increasing communications between service member and employer is one of the keys to solving this issue, and the GAO has recommended that the Department of Defense take more effective measure to ensure service members provide civilian employments information.

There are many ESGR programs aimed at employers, but they won't help unless ESGR volunteers can identify those businesses that

employ service members.

While institutional solutions will help address these issues on a large scale, each servicemember can start the process by reaching out to an employer to start a conversation before that servicemember is called to active duty.

If you are a member of the Army or Air National Guard who hasn't discussed USERRA with your employer, ESGR can help start the dialogue.

An ESGR volunteer can visit your employer to discuss the rights and responsibilities of servicemembers and employers under the federal law.

If an on-site visit is not possible or practical, there are many resources for both servicemember and employer at www.esgr.com, including "tips for employers" and "frequently asked questions" about USERRA.

For more information on CTESGR programs, visit www.ctesgr.org or call 860.721.5901.



*Thank you,
Families, for
all that you
do and all
that you
sacrifice.*

*We are
indebted to
you.*



Inside OCS

Challenging young Soldiers to be their best is her goal

OC ANNA MARIA VERDURA
OCS CLASS 52

For the past ten years I have been serving in the United States Army National Guard, beginning when I was seventeen years old. For as long as I can recall, serving in the United States Army was my dream.

Becoming an Officer in the Army is the next stepping-stone in enhancing that dream. I strive for excellence and I know that OCS will give me the chance to be an outstanding Officer.

Being promoted to the rank of sergeant was an acknowledgment to my leadership skills. Having the opportunity to become an officer in the Army would allow me to further develop and enhance my leadership abilities. I know that I have the drive and skills necessary to succeed in becoming an outstanding officer, and with the guidance I receive in OCS there is no doubt I will be successful.

For the last ten years I have been living my life by the Army standards, following the values instilled in me by the United States Army. The main reason that I know I am completely suited to become an Officer is the dedication I have for the Army. There has never been a time in my life where I have felt I could not give my full effort in any situation that was put forth to me.

The impact that the Army National Guard has had on my life is one of immense magnitude. I want to continue accomplishing the goals I set forth in my life and the notion of serving as an officer in the United States Army would be a noble accomplishment for me.

Having been properly trained, I am willing to take on any task that involves serving my country to the best of my ability. I have had definitive plans for my future and excelling in the United States Army has been one of them. With the opportunity OCS has given

me, I will give my wholehearted effort to be the finest Officer I can be.

OCS is the learning and training ground for the men and women who desire to accept the challenge of becoming an Officer, which I have. It provides a positive, result-oriented environment where you do not learn by simply sitting in the classroom but by applying all of the lessons learned through practical application.

The TAC Officers are professionals and demand excellence and teamwork. The students are responsible for their own chain of command and leadership positions. They assign their own S-positions and use them to help prepare for each drill.

The OCS program does not just feed you information but requires that each Officer Candidate be an active member in developing training plans for the upcoming drill, coordinating any logistical requirements needed, running physical

training, holding fundraisers and conducting meetings outside of the drill weekend. This makes the OCS program truly exceptional in the ability to teach and create future leaders.

By becoming an officer I will be able to help develop Soldiers. That is where I feel officers can make the most impact, by challenging young Soldiers to be the best they can; instilling in them pride that comes through accomplishing tasks as a team that would never be accessible by individual efforts; guiding and mentoring them, showing them the potential each one of them has and helping them achieve goals they never thought would be possible.

Through this, each member will be a more confident, dedicated leader within the Connecticut National Guard. As an officer in the Connecticut National Guard this is my aspiration and what I will strive to accomplish.

Why Diversity

Creation of National American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

What began at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the First Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States has resulted in the month of November being designated for that purpose.

One of the early proponents of an American Indian Day was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian who was the Director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, New York.

He persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the "First Americans," and for three years the Scouts adopted such a day.

In 1915, at the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, a plan celebrating American Indian Day was formally approved.

The Association directed its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to set aside a day of recognition.

Rev. Coolidge issued a proclamation on September 18, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of May as American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of American Indians as citizens.

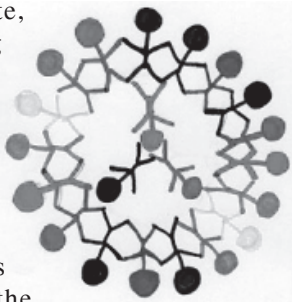
The year before this proclamation was issued, Red Fox James, a Blackfeet Indian,

rode horseback from state to state, seeking approval for a day to honor American Indians. On December 14, 1915, Red Fox James presented the endorsements of 24 state governments to the White House.

There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

In 1990 President George Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 as "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations have been issued each year since 1994.

National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month is celebrated to recognize the intertribal cultures and to educate the public about the heritage, history, art, and traditions of the American Indian and Alaska Native people.



Applications now being
accepted for
**Embedded Training Team
(ETT)**
**Operation Enduring
Freedom Afghanistan**

**Mobilization
Spring 2007**

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Maj/L. Rolstone x 4934

Application: Volunteer memorandum through your Chain of Command.
(All Volunteers / Soldiers will be involuntarily mobilized)

Health & Fitness



Medical Notes



Ticks carry more than Lyme Disease

TI BADRI
AS PUBLISHED IN THE NEW HAVEN REGISTER
JULY 5, 2006

The first study of its kind in Southern Connecticut has revealed that ticks may carry up to half a dozen disease-causing micro-organisms, which could explain why some people with Lyme disease continue to suffer mysterious symptoms for decades despite long-term treatment.

Researchers at the University of New Haven are also developing a new type of test to reveal these previously unrecognized organisms, which may complicate diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease.

The new test is designed to avoid the protracted nightmare that Julie Hunter, 20, has suffered since she contracted Lyme disease in 1999.

Physicians quickly diagnosed the bacterium that causes Lyme disease, but missed a more elusive germ that the tick also injected into her bloodstream.

"Present test results are unreliable and doctors stop as soon as the test comes out negative," said Hunter's father, David Hunter of Southbury.

He said that if the UNH test works, "It would greatly help the patient community. Julie had a co-infection that interfered with her Lyme disease treatment."

Many people with lingering symptoms of

Lyme disease may actually be infected with one or more previously unrecognized bacteria, viruses, parasites and protozoa, said Eva Sapi, assistant professor of molecular biology at UNH and senior author of the study, which is being prepared for publication.

Doctors, infectious disease specialists and Lyme disease experts said the problems posed by stowaway pathogens are significant. However, some scientists said the new test could be impractical, expensive and prone to poor quality control.

Current Lyme disease tests depend on antibodies produced by the patient in response to the invading spirochete. The test being developed by UNH's molecular biology department is intended to work by identifying specific fragments of foreign DNA generated by the infectious organisms.

The Lyme disease project will shed light on the types and frequencies of tick-borne microorganisms in southern Connecticut, Sapi said.

Researchers hope the new test kits will provide a quick and reliable method of diagnosing tick-borne diseases, enabling doctors to better treat patients suspected of having Lyme disease.

"Lyme patients will finally know what's going on. They will finally have closure," Sapi said.

Experts see the potential benefits of the new

test, but question its practicality. The test is based on polymerase chain reaction, a standard method of "amplifying," or making countless copies of a piece of DNA.

"PCR is doable in ticks, but researchers have to keep track of emerging infections," said Stephen Wikel, professor of immunology at the University of Connecticut Health Center.

"The test is feasible using real-time PCR", said Connecticut's chief entomologist, Kirby Stafford III. Real-time PCR can detect specific DNA sequences as they happen in the reaction chamber, allowing researchers to keep track of quantities of reacting materials at every stage of the process.

Other doctors aren't so sure.

"Individual tests using PCR are quite expensive and depend on quality control", said Dr. John Shanley, infectious diseases specialist at the UConn Health Center.

Prior to the study carried out at UNH, there were no in-depth studies carried out in Southern Connecticut to determine what kind of microorganisms ticks have and what co-infections are present, Sapi said.

These tick-transported pathogens include Bartonella, Mycoplasma and the virus that causes Colorado tick fever. Bartonella causes cat scratch disease, and Mycoplasma is a bacteria-like organism

associated with respiratory illness.

Researchers found that some ticks collected around Bridgeport and Hamden over the course of a year were infected with up to six different microorganisms.

"We always believed only one bacteria was present in the ticks, now we know that there are co-infections," Sapi said.

Multiple infections are very difficult to properly diagnose and treat, she said. Patients with multiple infections have significantly more complicated symptoms and poorer outcomes because different infections require different treatments, Sapi said.

For example, antibiotics cannot be used if a patient is found to have a viral co-infection; anti-viral drugs must be used instead. If left untreated, the corkscrew-shaped Lyme disease spirochete can cause fever, arthritis, swollen lymph nodes, aches and pains, and sometimes, a bull's-eye rash. However, not all patients will have all the associated symptoms.

Whatever scientists can do to ameliorate the anguish of Lyme disease should be pursued, including new tests, said David Hunter.

"I think it would be huge for the patient community because many people remain largely ignorant of the impact of the disease," he said.



2nd Co. Gov. Foot Guard Band seeks

The Second Company Governor's Foot Guard Band is seeking a few good musicians.

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Combating Substance Abuse: Peer Pressure – The good, the bad and the ugly

CW4 TONY UVA
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION OFFICER

It's natural to want to fit in with friends. After all, nobody likes to stand out from the crowd.

We want respect and to feel that we belong. We need to feel connected with others who share attitudes, interests, and circumstances that resemble our own. We choose friends who accept us and see us in a favorable light.

A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.

Peer pressure occurs when "friends" persuade you to doing something, and it can be positive or negative. Peer pressure can be broken down into three areas; good peer pressure; bad peer pressure and ugly peer pressure.

Good peer pressure is being pushed into something positive that you didn't have the courage to attempt or even consider, and it turned out well.. Groups of friends who enlist in the National Guard or attend a certain

college are examples of good peer pressure.

Bad peer pressure is being coerced into doing something wrong or risky that you didn't want to do. Ugly peer pressure is bad peer pressure to the extreme and the negative outcome may be addiction, sexual assault, injury or death.

When it comes to drug abuse, people try them because their peers do. They are afraid they'll look clueless or be classified a "loser" if they don't.

It's hard to pass up an offer from friends without raising a few eyebrows. But no one should have to justify a decision not to engage in drug abuse.

Whether you have a strong personal commitment to clean living, or just don't want to participate, your choices are your own business. Drug abuse of any kind carries certain risks including health problems, legal problems or even military discharge consequences.

The biggest problem with negative peer pressure is you find yourself sucked into

something that you really did not want to do and probably will regret. When a friend offers you drugs, it is your decision whether or not you want to participate. You also must have the courage to stick to your decision.

Binge drinking, smoking and drug abuse are becoming alarmingly widespread in today's popular culture because of the desire to be accepted (Peer Pressure).

It's not uncommon to find people at social gatherings where it seems to be the norm to drink a few too many or to smoke a couple of joints. Although there is not one answer or solution to dealing with peer pressure, there are things, which we should ask ourselves before entering into situations in which we may physically or emotionally harm ourselves or others around us.

Why am I doing this? Is it for me or for this guy/girl? Or is it for my friends, because I'm scared of standing up for what I believe in and risk losing their friendship? Unless you truly believe, deep down, that you are doing something for you, and for no one else, stop

and remember that you are an individual who has the right to stand up for what you believe in.

Be comfortable within your group of friends and avoid situations that include activities you don't want to participate in or may endanger or harm you.

Think of it this way, drugs and alcohol are like dynamite. The end result is always explosive; not good or bad, just ugly.

Remember, if you are a military member and you think someone is abusing drugs try, to get them help.

The Connecticut National Guard Web Site <http://www.ct.ngb.army.mil> or your chain of command are excellent resources.

Command sponsored substance abuse education prepares individuals to make solid decisions and to better understand the consequences of being involved with substance abuse (Illicit Drugs or Alcohol and Tobacco).

History: General Israel Putnam

COL. ROBERT CODY

Connecticut produced many notable personalities during the American Revolution. Men and women whose actions have gone down in history and have become synonymous with courage, like Nathan Hale or treason, like Benedict Arnold.

Israel Putnam was a brigadier general in the Connecticut Militia when the hostilities began. He had a very colorful past, lying about his age and joining the militia at 14 and fighting in the French and Indian Wars. Upon getting word that there was fighting in Lexington he reportedly unhitched his horse and left his plow in the middle of his fields in Pomfret to join the fight. The wood and iron plow is currently on display at Putnam Park in Redding. It had been on display in the State Armory in Hartford for many years. Putnam rode the one hundred and twenty miles from his home to Lexington in just eighteen hours.

Israel Putnam commanded a regiment at the Battle of Bunker Hill and is one of the officers credited with giving the order, "Don't shoot until you see the whites of their eyes." A description of Putnam at Breed's Hill said "in the heat of battle his countenance was fierce and terrible, and his voice like thunder." Putnam then commanded the important Highlands Department from May 1777 until March 1778. He left active service in 1779 after a stroke left him partially paralyzed. Although a veteran fighter, Putnam had limited talent as a tactician, as evidenced by his crushing defeat in Brooklyn. His appointment to the rank of major general was most certainly a kind concession to Connecticut for its substantial contributions and future support by Gen. George Washington.

While his troops were in Redding during the winter of 1778 – 1779, Putnam made frequent visits to Horseneck, the colonial name of what is now Greenwich to inspect the guard. He was visiting there on February 26th, 1779 when British Gen. William Tryon entered town 1400 men. Putnam reportedly saw the British and Tory invaders in the reflection of his shaving mirror just before they crashed through the door. The general leapt on his horse and dashed away with the enemy hot on his heels. He continued his escape down a set of one hundred steps cut into the side of a steep hill. Here his pursuers broke off their chase and elected to take some parting shots at their quarry instead. Putnam was not wounded but had his cap pierced by a musket shot. Arriving at the bottom of the hill, he reportedly raised his fist in defiance of his attackers and yelled "God cuss ye, when I catch ye, I'll hang ye from the next tree." Putnam continued his flight to nearby Fort Stamford to get reinforcements. When Tryon heard of Putnam's remarkable daring, he sent his adversary a new cap. A bronze statue of Putnam and his mount at the bottom of the steps is on display at the visitor center at Putnam Park.

Maj. Gen. Israel Putnam was partially paralyzed by a stroke several months later as he traveled back to Brooklyn, Connecticut, to visit his family. After convalescing at home that winter, he wrote General Washington in May 1780, stating that he "would never be able to resume command in the army." General Israel Putnam died at his home in Brooklyn on May 29, 1790. The epitaph on his tombstone reads, "He Dared to Lead Where Any Dared To Follow."

Employment Opportunity

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Sunday: 7:30a.m.— 4:00p.m.

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NATIONAL GUARD 
RECRUITING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Retirees' Voice

Good news, bad news

SGT. 1ST CLASS (RET.) JOHN BEDNARZ

The National Defense Authorization Act for 2007 has been signed by the President and we have gained a few victories, such as the suspension of the cost increases in our medical co-pays and a dropped proposal to make it mandatory to use the mail order pharmacy.

It also requires the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs to conduct a 15-year study on effects of traumatic Brain Injury on Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom Soldiers and their families.

Some of the items not included in the new act are the SBC/DIF offset and 'paid up' SBC which have not been accelerated. Some of the issues we did not get addressed will be included in new bills before the 110th Congress...which means that we must get active again by telling our Congress men and women what we want from them.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced that all of their health care facilities are beginning an aggressive campaign to ensure that enrolled veterans with old versions of its ID cards are issued the new Veterans Identification Card (VIC). They decided that they needed to do this to reduce the vulnerability of veterans to identity theft.

For more information on the new VIC, contact your Medical Center's Eligibility & Enrollment Office or their website at: www.va.gov/healtheligibility.

I received the newest edition of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) *New Patriot* newsletter. It is in a new format, having gone from a newspaper type publication to a magazine style.

I like it very much because it is not bulky and unwieldy and I can fold it and slip it in my pocket and take it to my reading room (AKA the water closet). With its many interesting and informative articles, it is really good reading.

One of the 'themes' of the new President of EANGUS, Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Frank Lever is communications. He asks that all of the Leadership of EANGUS and all of its state chapters update their contact information in the "EANGUS Yellow Pages" so that communications go smoothly.

My first ARNG first sergeant (1st Sgt. Robert T.) always said to me, "To Communicate is To Command."

Communication prevents rumors, innuendo, dissatisfaction and discontent and promotes teamwork and esprit décor.

All of this brings me back to retirees. Make sure you have an open channel to all the information you can get.

Make sure you belong to an organization such as NGAUS, EANGUS and NGACT for updates on all the legislative issues that relate directly to the National Guard and send your current e-mail address to Frank Perry at: bima61@metrocast.net to keep current with the latest information.

Tricare information now housed under one internet roof

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Tricare beneficiaries will get a pleasant surprise the next time they visit Tricare Online. The Web site has a new name, a new look and a new home. It's now part of Tricare.mil, the official Web site for all Tricare information.

"We reorganized the Web site with our beneficiaries in mind," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, Tricare Management Activity. "Now they can go to one site to look up benefit information, schedule an appointment or track claims. Everything's in one place, making the site easier to use."

Tricare.mil comprises five main content

areas:

— My Health (Tricare Online) — personal health information and online appointment scheduling for Tricare Prime enrollees;

— My Benefit — Tricare benefit information;

— MHS Staff — resources for Military Health System staff members;

— Tricare Providers — information for Tricare network providers; and

— Pressroom — the latest news about Tricare and the military health system.

In the next phase of Web site improvements, beneficiaries will be able to enter their profile and receive benefit information tailored to them. Tricare expects this feature to be available in winter of 2007.

GRAP for Retirees !!

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NATIONAL GUARD

RECRUITING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



2nd Louie

By Bob Rosenburgh



WATCH OUT FOR HIM. THE PROMOTION TO CORPORAL HAS MADE HIM DRUNK WITH POWER.



Connecticut National Guard Fulltime Employment Opportunities

The following are Connecticut Army and Air National Guard Technician openings. For a copy of the full Technician vacancy announcements, go to www.ct.ngb.army.mil and click on employment opportunities.

Army National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing Date
Aircraft Systems Supervisor (Indefinite)	AASF	WS-10	11/14/2006
Surface Maint. Mechanic (Indef/Temp)	FMS 9	WG-10/08	11/15/2006
Human Resources Assistant (Military)	AVCRAD	GS-06	11/17/2006
International Partnership Specialist	J-5	GS-11	11/17/2006
Supply Technician (Indefinite)	AVCRAD	GS-06	11/17/2006
Supply Technician	AVCRAD	GS-07	11/17/2006
Surface Maintenance Mechanic	FMS 2	WG-10/08	11/17/2006
Command Program Support Specialist	JFHQ-CT	GS-11/09	11/27/2006
Human Resources Assistant (Military)	J-1	GS-07	11/27/2006
Contract Specialist	USPFO	GS-09	11/28/2006
Procurement Technician	USPFO	GS-07	11/28/2006
Secretary (OA)	IG	GS-06	11/30/2006

Air National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing Date
International Partnership Specialist	J-5	GS-11	11/17/2006

Listed below are current openings in the Connecticut National Guard AGR program. For a copy of the Military Tour Vacancy Announcement, go the www.ct.ngb.army.mil and click on employment opportunities.

Army National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Production Recruiter	Recruiting and Ret Det	SFC/E-7	Open AGR (Nationwide)
Dog Handler	11th MWD Det	SPC/E-4	Open AGR Nationwide
Personnel Services NCO	143rd ASG	SFC/E-7	On Board AGR E7 Only
State Partnership Coordinator	JFHQ-CT	2LT - CPT	Open AGR (Statewide)
Supply NCO	C(-) 3-142 AVN	E-3 to E-5	Open AGR (Nationwide)
Drug Demand Reduction Spec (ADSW tour)	JFHQ-CT	E-5 to E-7	Open Statewide (CT Only)

Air National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
There are currently no jobs posted.			

NOTE: Other positions with outdated closing dates are also listed on the website. Some of these positions are currently under consideration, and others may have their application dates extended. Keep checking the website and if you have any questions concerning outdated postings, call HRO at (860) 878-6739 or (860) 878-6729.

Visit the
**Connecticut
Guardian**
on-line at
www.ct.ngb.army.mil

Coming Events

November

November 7

Election Day

November 8

NGACT Board Meeting - Open to all

November 11

Veteran's Day

November 23

Thanksgiving Day

December

December 7

Pearl Harbor Day

December 13

NGACT Board Meeting - Open to All

December 16

Operation E.L.F. Holiday Party

Hartford Armory

December 16

Hanukkah

December 25

Christmas

December 26

Kwanzaa

December 31

New Year's Eve

January

January 1

New Year's Day

Date to be Announced

Governor's Inauguration

January 10

NGACT Executive Board Meeting- Open to all

January 15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

In future issues

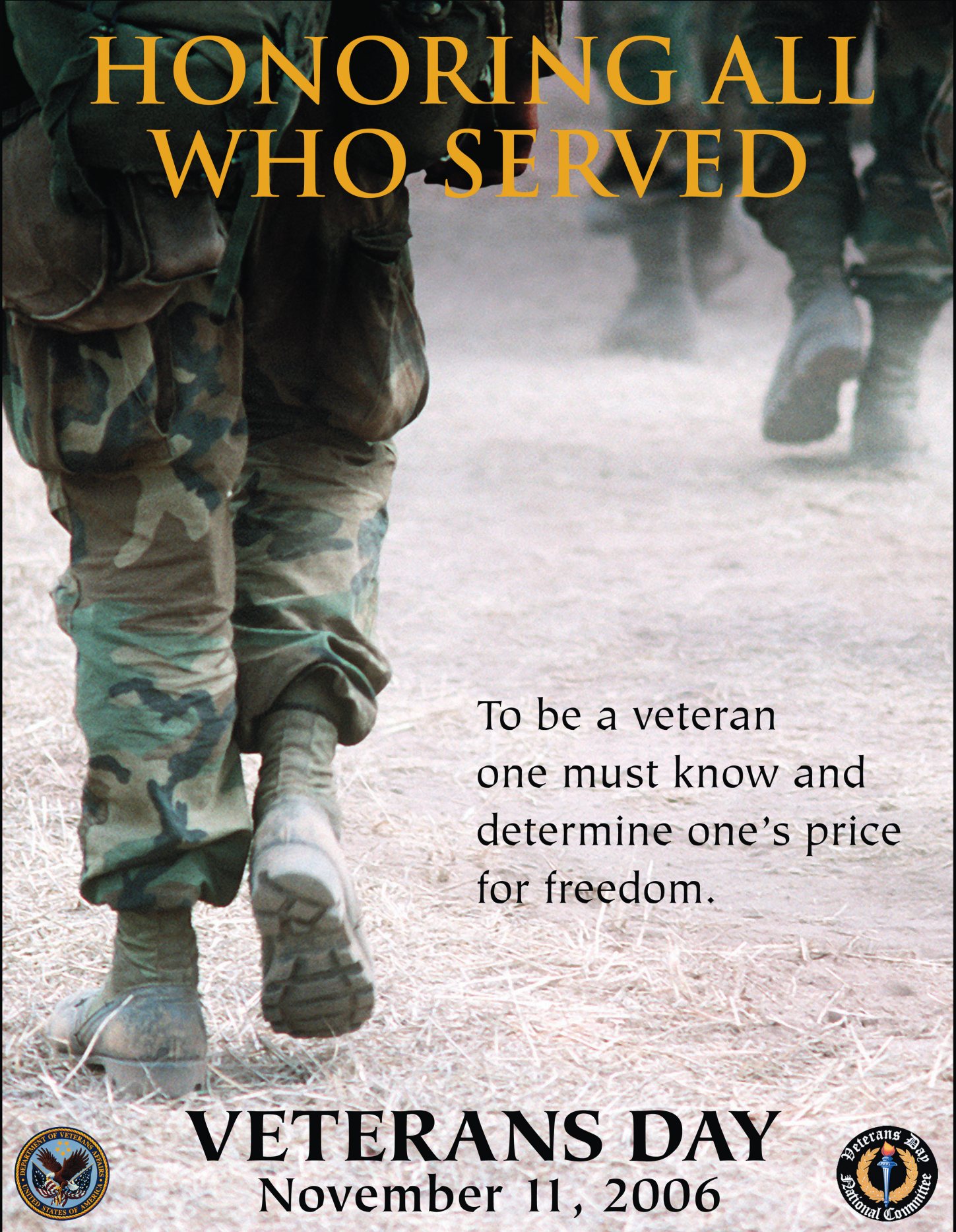
Military Working Dogs

Officer's Dining-In

JISCC Training Brings Together Army, Air

Deployed Units

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month previous to publication.





HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

To be a veteran
one must know and
determine one's price
for freedom.

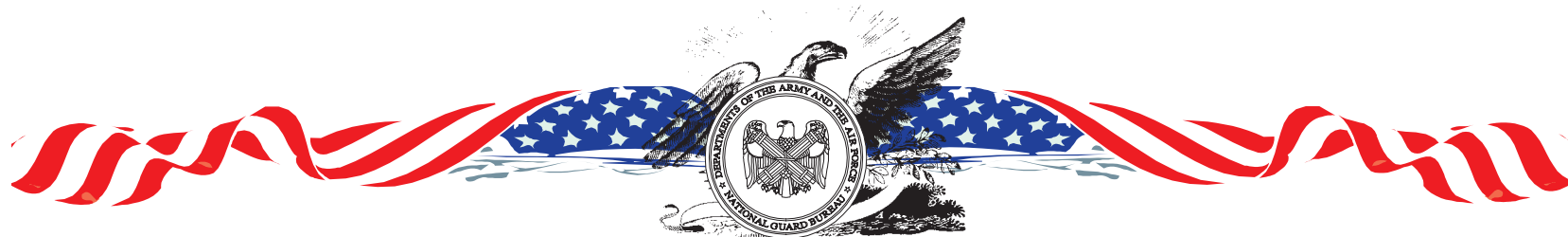
VETERANS DAY

November 11, 2006



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Family Deployment Supplement to the Connecticut Guardian

VOL. 7 NO. 11

HARTFORD, CT

NOVEMBER 2006

Family Readiness Programs

FROM WWW.US.ARMY.MIL

What is it?

The Army National Guard (ARNG) values the support and dedication of our families across the country. Family Readiness Programs on the national, state, local, and unit level benefit service members and their families and have a positive impact on Soldier and Family morale and readiness.

One of the many ways that Family Readiness Groups help families is to make sure that they learn about the many events, services, and programs available to them. Unlike earlier decades, when families were structured more traditionally, the concept of family has been expanded and redefined to include friends, stepfamilies, employers, communities, and basically anyone who cares about a Soldier.

What has the Army done?

Recent activities that affect ARNG families include:

- The Army has provided support in the establishment of National Guard operated Family Assistance Centers. These Centers provide Information, Referral and Outreach to families of geographically dispersed members from all Services whether Active or Reserve Component. (See Forces Command Regulation 500-3-1).
- The National Guard Bureau Family Program Office provides training to families through its Guard Family Team Building Program via Computer Based Training Modules, Centralized Classes, and local training provided. These training courses educate and help make families self reliant throughout the deployment process.
- The Army-Well Being program established the Army Families Online website, a portal for information of interest to families of National Guard Soldiers.
- The Department of Defense (DoD) Military

OneSource program provides benefits to all military families (for example, counseling services, resources for parents, assistance with consumer credit, and free access to TurboTax for online tax return preparation).

- The DoD Military HOMEFRONT web portal is a central up-to-date source for Service members and their families to obtain information about Quality of Life programs and services such as childcare, elder care, and programs for resolving domestic abuse or domestic violence problems.

- Operation Purple, sponsored by the National Military Family Association (NMFA) provides one week of free camp to children of deployed Soldiers.

- The DoD Family Readiness Award for the 2005 ARNG Family Readiness Program was awarded to Wisconsin's 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Brigade Separate (Light).

What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future?

Family Readiness Groups continue to support the Soldier prior to and after deployment as well as during times of family separation. The ARNG remains committed to support the family of the deployed Soldier throughout the deployment cycle.

Why is this important to the Army?

Family readiness is not an option; it is an essential part of our mission. The Army National Guard has identified an absolute need for an aggressive Family Readiness Program, a program that is not merely delegated, but embraced by Commanders at every level.

Every Soldier needs a support structure and a network of protection that includes self readiness, within a circle of family readiness, within a circle of unit and community readiness, within the larger enclosures of state and national support.

Governor kicks off 2006 Operation E.L.F.



Gov. M. Jodi Rell kicks off the 2006 Operation E.L.F. drive during a press conference at the Hartford Armory. This is the fourth year that Rell has championed the families of Connecticut's deployed service men and women with her Operation Embracing Lonely Families drive. Rell said that the 970 Connecticut Guardsmen deployed worry about their families during the holidays and taking care of the families alleviates some of that worry.

"One meaningful way we can show support for our military personnel overseas is to make sure that their families get the assistance they need as they try to run their households and make ends meet. As we begin our fourth year of Operation E.L.F., this successful program provides us with an opportunity to show our gratitude to the nearly 1,000 men and women in uniform from Connecticut who are serving our country."

Donations on new, unwrapped toys, phone cards, grocery and department store gift cards, fuel gift cards, cash and Christmas trees will be appreciated. Visit www.operationelf.com for more information.

(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)

November is Military Families Appreciation Month

Thank you Families for your support.
We couldn't do what we do without your love and sacrifices.



CATHERINE GALASSO

Mother's life taught about being thankful

I grew up with an amazing practical, and kind Mother. In difficult circumstances, she washed the dishes by hand, instead of using the dishwasher; she hung the clothes on a clothesline, rather than used the dryer, and wore the same red coat, for 15 years, while I, as a growing child, had to have a new one every year.

She was happy to crochet a blanket, sweater or tablecloth instead of buying those items.

My mother's dreams were focused on her treasures of family and friends. I can see her now in a comfortable dress, with a grandchild on her lap, and a lovely, warm smile always adorned her face.

She repaired and mended things. The kitchen curtains, worn clothes and socks. And she kept everything.

This was a way of life, and sometimes, as a young girl, I would wonder, "Why do we care and repair and mend so much?"

Throwing things away meant you knew there would always be more. It meant, in my adolescent mind, affluence.

But then, on that clear spring morning when my mother passed on, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any 'more.'

And, at times, what we care most about goes away, never to return.

Therefore, while we have it, let us love and cherish it, care for it, mend it when it is broken, and heal it when it is sick. Let us treasure the blessings we have and be thankful each day for those who look to us and love us.

This philosophy is true for marriage, children, acquaintances, old cars, our homes, jobs and even our health.

We must be appreciative of our loved ones, enough food, our well-being, our careers, pets, a hug, encouraging words, the beauty of nature, art, fine music, a tender smile, the ability to laugh, good deeds, and all the gifts that God has given us. The list goes on and on and on. Focusing on all our blessings, leaves us

little time to complain about what we do not have.

A reader wrote via e-mail, "Things happen for a reason, and when I look back I think how grateful I am for all that occurs, even though it may be hard at the time. I always look for the reminders of God and His love; for I know He is there for me."

The real measure of wealth is how appreciative we are of the love of God and the gifts from Him we have received. We must not take for granted the things in which we should be so thankful.

A reader wrote, "I wanted to let you know that when I was going through a very dark time, and out of the blue, I picked up a paper that I never read before and saw your column. It started about the story of you and your mother at the beach and the storm came. I now know that there is a God and if I try harder to live on faith, blessings will come my way. I can see clearly all the blessings God has poured upon me."

We all have so much to be grateful to God for, and we must tell Him so everyday. "Who can put into words and tell the mighty deeds of the Lord? Or can show forth all the praise that is due Him?" Psalm 106:2. Each moment is a present that God gives us. Regardless of where we are in our journey of life, we can live each day in thankfulness for God's gift to us and make it special in some way to the glory of His name.

The faces I have memorized, the memories I hold dear, and the guiding Hand that directs my life, in my eyes these things are some of my most precious treasures.

In addition, my mother, who is at home with Jesus, is still such a great influence in my life. And God, who loves me, has given me more of those who are like mothers to me. You just cannot outgive God.

Write to Catherine Galasso-Vigorito in care of Connecticut Guardian, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, Ct. 06105-3795 or e-mail her at cgv@anewyouworldwide.com.

Visit her website to see her new inspirational product line at www.anewyouworldwide.com
© Catherine Galasso, 2006

Visit the
Connecticut Guardian

on-line at

www.ct.ngb.army.mil

Need assistance?

Have questions?

Contact the

103rd Air Control

Squadron's

Family Support Program

by visiting its Website:

www.103rdacs.com



THE RE-CYCLING CAMPAIGN IS A BIG SUCCESS BUT WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF SPACE!



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toby.cormier@ct.ngb.army.mil



1st Sgt. Paul Diorio, 85th Troop Command, runs in the 5K Freedom Run and Walk on Nov. 4, at the Hartford Armory. The 5K was an event sponsored by the Connecticut National Guard Foundation and held to support National Guard Soldiers, Airmen, and their families. (Photo by Spc. Ryan Dostie, 130th PAD)



Staff Sgt Marco Lopes, HHD 192nd Chemical Battalion, takes first place in the 5K Freedom Run and Walk on November, 4, at the Hartford Armory. Lopes finished the run in 18:13. The 5K was an event sponsored by the Connecticut National Guard Foundation and held to support National Guard soldiers, airmen, and their families. (Photo by Spc. Ryan Dostie, 130th PAD)



Maj. Michael J. Falk races in the 5K Freedom Run and Walk on Nov. 4, at the Hartford Armory. The 5K was an event sponsored by the Connecticut National Guard Foundation and held to support National Guard Soldiers, Airmen, and their families. (Photo by Spc. Ryan Dostie, 130th PAD)



Diana Rocco, James Rocco, Christine Caruolo, Martha Rocco, and Steve Rocco (left to right) gather after the 5K Freedom Run and Walk on November 4, at the Hartford Armory. The family walked in support of 1st Lt. Robert Caruolo, 134th MP Company, Christine's husband and who is currently deployed to Iraq. The family wanted to take part to show their support

for both 1st Lt. Caruolo and all the troops. "It's the least we can do," says Diana Rocco, Christine's sister. "We want them to know that we're behind them and as long as they're over there, we're here for them." (Photo by Spc. Ryan Dostie, 130th PAD)

Guardians of Freedom 5K Walk, Run



1st Lt. Steven A. Falusi (left) and CMS Timothy Shaw, both of the 103rd Security Forces Squad, Air National Guard, race to the finish of the 5K Freedom Run and Walk on Nov. 4, at the Hartford Armory. Lopes finished the run in 18:13. The 5K was an event sponsored by the Connecticut National Guard Foundation and held to support National Guard soldiers, airmen, and their families. (Photo by Spc. Ryan Dostie, 130th PAD)

Family Assistance Center locations

Family Assistance Centers are set-up in the following armories around the state:

Waterbury Armory
64 Field Street, Waterbury, CT 06702
(203) 574-2406 Toll Free 866-347-2291
Mrs. Tamara (Jex) Killian

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Mr. Bert Saur & Mrs. Andrea Lathrop

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Mr. Charlie and Mrs. Jane Solomon

Windsor Locks
Bldg. P123, Camp Hartell, Windsor Locks, CT 06096
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Mrs. Rita O'Donnell

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360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795
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Mrs. Kim Hoffman, Mrs. Michelle McCarty,
Mrs. Melissa Tetro-Dow, Staff Sgt. Jessica McKenna-Boski,
Mrs. Trudy Kaufman, Ms. Elizabeth Rivera and Mrs. Karen Somes

Volunteers are needed in each facility.

Those wishing to help out can contact Mrs. Kim Hoffman, Family Program Manager at 1-800-858-2677. Any family member or loved one of a deployed soldier who has questions about benefits or deployment issues may also get answers to their question at the following email address:

kim.hoffman@ct.ngb.army.mil

Please visit our Website at www.ct.ngb.army.mil/family



This turkey is colorful and easy for youngsters to make. When complete, they make cute table decorations at each place setting for Thanksgiving dinner or for your holiday parties. Parental supervision is recommended. This project is rated EASY to do.

What You Need ·

Plump pine cones (spherical shaped about 1 1/2"-2" diameter) ·
1 red bumpy chenille stem ·
1 orange bumpy chenille stem ·
5 other colors of bumpy chenille stems ·
Glue (craft, wood, or all-purpose that dries clear) ·
Wire Cutter

How To Make It

1. Make sure each pine cone has dried thoroughly.
2. Cut the bumps apart in each chenille wire. *Using wire cutters, cut in the center of each place where the wire narrows down—you want the bumps whole and fluffy.*
3. Take one red bump and shape into an 'S'. Glue this to the rounded end of the cone with the bump protruding somewhat above the cone for the head of the turkey.
4. Take one orange bump and shape into a 'V'. Glue this under the bottom of the round part of the cone for the legs and feet. *The feet can be shaped later. Toes can even be added.*

5. Take five to seven other bumps and carefully bend them so the narrow ends can be twisted together leaving the puffy end somewhat rounded. Glue as many of these as nicely fits close to the flatter stemmed end of the pine cone remembering to use glue only on the twisted end of the chenille wire.

6. Let dry and then adjust shaped of chenille wires to make your turkey look more realistic.

Tip: If you would like to use these as napkin rings, cut the orange chenille wires longer and make them into a circle and glue circle on bottom of turkeys.

KID'S CREATIVE CORNER

A monthly feature of fun and educational activities for the children of the Connecticut National Guard